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THE TIMES

No. 64,515

MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1992

45p

Major says EC is restored as Danish opposition fades

John Major will step up moves for ratification of the Maastricht treaty in the wake of his hard-won success at the Edinburgh summit

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN leaders' hopes that all twelve EC states will ratify the Maastricht treaty by next summer rose sharply last night after a summit hailed by John Major as "putting the Community back together".

All three Danish opposition parties backed the deal agreed at Edinburgh — increasing the likelihood that it will survive a second referendum — and British ministers voiced renewed confidence of getting the European union bill through the Commons.

Douglas Hurd said: "I think it is clear now we will get it." But he also made plain that if the Danes rejected Maastricht again, Britain would not negotiate a new treaty with the other ten members. Downing Street reinforced that view, saying the government was determined that the EC should press ahead as twelve: "That is what we worked so hard to achieve in the summit."

Mr Major's handling of the conference, which he said had "put the Community back together and put us all back on the track to recovery", was widely praised by his fellow leaders — some of whom had condemned the British presidency as a disaster. Albert Reynolds of Ireland said: "It was an excellent deal and an excellent result for the presidency." Mr Major himself described the deal as a real breakthrough after two days of "hard pounding" and promised that Britain would ratify the Maastricht treaty as speedily as possible after a Danish referendum in the late spring.

"The decisions we have taken will enable the Community to go forward as twelve. We have solved the Rubik's Cube that was laid before us."

The prime minister is expected to receive a warm reception from Conservative MPs when he reports on the summit to the Commons today, but Euro-sceptics insist that they were not giving up the battle against the Maastricht treaty. Some gave notice last night that they intended to press for the Danish opt-outs on defence and citizenship to be applied to Britain.

Labour welcomed the agreement aimed at helping Danish ratification, but John Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary, criticised proposals for growth as "woefully

inadequate". The deal will now increase the pressure on Labour leaders to come off the fence and state clearly that they will not oppose the third reading of the Maastricht bill in the Commons. But Mr Cunningham would say only: "We will be continuing with our own timetable and our own objectives for the debate on the Maastricht Bill."

While Mr Major and Mr Hurd were confident last night of pushing the bill through, they also emphasised that it was dependant on Danish ratification. The foreign secretary said that if the Danes voted "no", Britain had no intention of leaving them alone. "We have always said that Denmark cannot be excluded. It is not a political reality to suppose that we would sit down and negotiate a new treaty of 11 members without Denmark."

Mr Hurd's remarks came as President Mitterrand confirmed that the question had been discussed at Edinburgh. The French leader said Mr Major had told the summit that if the Danes rejected the treaty for a second time, he could not see how Britain could go ahead.

The summit finally closed late on Saturday night after a protracted wrangle over the Community budget with Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, who at one stage almost walked out. It was settled with a seven-year deal to increase the budget to some £62 billion by 1999, with more money for the £12 billion cohesion fund for the poorer states.

Other key elements of the summit accord were an agreement to start negotiations on EC membership with Austria, Sweden and Finland and recognition that they would become full members. A "subsidiarity" deal to prevent the erosion of national powers, the opening of EC procedures, and an economic package that would aid growth throughout the Community. For the first time in recent months, the Chancellor sounded a cautiously optimistic note about the economy, saying: "I think the prospects look more hopeful."

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Leading article, page 13

KEY TO MONA LISA'S SMILE MAY BE IN LEONARDO'S MIRROR



By JEREMY LAURANCE

THE enigma of the Mona Lisa's smile, a subject of dispute for centuries, may have a simple explanation. The face of the unknown sitter, famous for its strangely sinister quality, may be a mirror image of Leonardo himself, according to a psychiatrist in London.

The sinister aspect to the smile, described by Sigmund Freud as expressing the contrast between "the most devoted tenderness and a sensuality that is ruthlessly demanding," arises because of the way we "read" faces with the two halves of our brain, says Dr Digby Quested, a registrar at London's Maudsley hospital.

The Mona Lisa smiles more with the left side of her face, which is normally true of forced smiles and is more common in men. Reversing the portrait gives the face a warmer, more appealing aspect.

"The face looks as though it is the wrong way round," Dr Quested said yesterday. "The

Psychiatrist reverses famous face to reveal artist's secret

key to its mystery is that it is a mirror image."

Leonardo was known to be left handed and produced mirror writing, so could have created the inversion unintentionally. But Dr Quested suggests in the *Bulletin of the Royal College of Psychiatrists* that the painting is more likely to be a self-portrait.

"There was evidence that he was homosexual and he may have felt trapped in his sexuality," he said. "It may be that people saw him as one thing but he felt free to express it. Painting himself as a female would have helped him."

The theory that the Mona Lisa is a portrait of the artist enjoyed brief attention in the mid-1980s, when a computer-aided juxtaposition of her face with an acknowledged self-portrait of Da Vinci showed that the facial fea-

tures aligned exactly. Dr Quested cites other evidence to support the theory, however. Mystery surrounds the identity of the sitter and the commissioner of her portrait. Leonardo was "almost certainly infatuated" with the picture, keeping it with him



Young view: Da Vinci may have posed for this David

until his death in Paris. Leonardo's tutor, Andrea del Verrocchio, cast a statue of David for which the young Leonardo was thought to be the model, whose half-smile bears a striking resemblance to Mona Lisa's. X-rays of the painting have revealed a bearded face.

"I believe Da Vinci worked it out," Dr Quested said. "He may have shown the finished face to others who commented on the strangeness of the smile and he tried to work out why this was so. Being left handed and producing mirror writing, he must have been interested in the idea that the two halves of a face can convey different messages."

"The painting is a self portrait in inversion, both with regard to laterality and gender."

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Point of view: mirror-image view of the Mona Lisa, left, and a montage combining a right-way-round Mona Lisa and Da Vinci's self-portrait, right, showing similarities in mouth, nose and eyes

No-fly ban, page 8

Serbian tells of lessons in death and rape

A young Serb fighter's grim confession is likely to form the basis of the first war crimes trial in former Yugoslavia, Richard Beeston writes from Sarajevo

BORISLAV Herak delivered his gruesome confession of murder, rape and butchery in a clipped and awkward monotone which is as painful to watch as his story is to hear. He learned hand-to-hand combat using live pigs, taught how to throw them, hold them down and slit their throats. Later he was told to practise on Bosnian prisoners of war.

"I did it because I had no choice, I had to obey orders," said the captured Serb fighter, whose deeds and his mitigation of them are chillingly reminiscent of the last time war crimes were committed in central Europe, half a century ago. The account of his six-months' service with Serbian forces north of Sarajevo is expected next month to be the basis for the first war crimes trial of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, when he will be charged with genocide, mass murder, rape and looting under Article 41 of the Yugoslav criminal code.

His eyewitness testimony, the first by a participant in the notorious process of "ethnic cleansing", should also offer a unique insight into how Serb forces killed tens of thousands of Muslim and Croat Bosnians and drove hundreds of thousands more from their homes in the past eight months of fighting.

The most disturbing episodes of Mr Herak's activities began in June, soon after he left his home in Sarajevo and joined the Biochanska unit of the Bosnian Serb militia

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Warm greetings in an Arctic chill

By ALAN HAMILTON

NASARU Nashimoto declared himself very happy to be in Scotland. Dressed in deerstalker hat, Sherlock Holmes cape and plus-fours purchased the day before in Edinburgh, the chief presenter of Japanese breakfast television was doing an excited piece to camera by the roadside at Craighie. It was the equivalent of David Frost reporting a royal wedding from Tokyo dressed as a Samurai warrior.

The Princess Royal, who was about to become a sailor's wife, might well have been very happy to be in Japan. There, the media tend to be obedient to the wishes of the Imperial Household; at this very moment they are operating a voluntary news blackout on their Crown Prince's search for a bride.

Only the determinedly curious, the fiercely loyalist and those who were being paid to be there braved the Arctic chill of a north-west wind to catch the briefest glimpse of the

Princess on the day of her marriage to Commander Timothy Laurence on Saturday. Huddled in anoraks, swathed in hairy travelling rugs, kept alive by an enterprising mobile tea-bar, a crowd of barely 300 lined the 200-yard route from the gates of Balmoral to Craighie Kirk. Mrs Margaret Kittle, a self-confessed hopeless royal addict, had flown all the way from



Breakfast news: cosy view for Nashimoto

Winona, Ontario, for the event, having been an on-looker at the Princess's first wedding in 1973.

Public were well outnumbered by a 500-strong media contingent, frustrated at being kept on the opposite side of the road from the church, itself largely hidden among trees. There was an air of having been short-changed. If she wanted a private wedding as she claimed, why did she not have it in the chapel inside Balmoral? And if she was going to have it in a public church, why couldn't we all have a decent view? Three thousand feet above, on the wintery summit of Lochnagar, it began to snow.

Shortly before three, at which time in these northern latitudes December daylight is already threatening to fade, the guests began to arrive; estate staff in Melros and Ladas, and some kilted gentlemen in a bus. Commander Laurence's family roared out of the castle in two white

Rovers, clearly practising for the lifetime of media-dodging to come. A large and amiable contingent of the Grampian Police strolled about ready to keep order, but it was far too cold for riots.

Then a flurry of excitement as a dark blue Land Rover Discovery bore the groom, in full naval uniform, and his brother Jonathan from castle to kirk at high speed. Soon afterwards came a motorcade of Range Rovers bearing the Queen in green, the Queen Mother in blue, the Prince of Wales in a kilt, Princess Margaret in a Cossack hat, the Duke of York and Prince Edward in long black coats more suited to a funeral, and the bride's son Peter Phillips. With the exception of the Princess of Wales they had all decided to turn up after all. The Queen smiled a bit, drawing only a thinnish cheer. At the church door the

Continued on page 3, col 3

Photograph, page 3

1,200 die in Indonesia earthquake

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT least 1,232 people were killed by a huge earthquake, measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale, which struck eastern Indonesia at the weekend, devastating parts of the island of Flores.

Hendrikus Fernandez, the governor of East Nusa Tenggara province, which includes Flores, said yesterday that the town of Maumere, 19 miles from the earthquake's epicentre in the sea, had suffered about 1,000 dead when tidal waves smashed into its seafront and port. The survivors needed medical aid, and tents to protect them from the rains, he said. Two ships with emergency supplies have been sent from the neighbouring island of Timor. Flores is a tourist attraction, but it is not yet known if any foreigners were among the victims.

Quake toll, page 8

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Bottomley eager to move quickly to close top London hospitals

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the health secretary, is expected to back a programme of hospital closures in line with those recommended in the Tomlinson report when she announces her plans to shake-up London health services next month.

The health department is determined to press ahead quickly with proposals to close many of London's top hospitals next year despite growing opposition from the medical profession.

Mrs Bottomley has secured enough money to implement some of the plans next year, and is adamant that the closures go ahead before the idea loses momentum. Sources close to the health secretary say that she has won tens of millions of pounds to

start building up primary health services and fund redundancy payments as part of next year's settlement.

She is unmoved by the vociferous opposition to the closure of St Bartholomew's hospital, which was marked by a lobby at Downing Street on Thursday. She points to the deficit at the hospital this year and this week's announcement of an extra £50 million to bail out London health services.

Mrs Bottomley believes that the plans set out by Sir Bernard Tomlinson in October, which include the closure or merger of up to 15 hospitals in the capital, could be phased over five years or less.

In his report published last October, Sir Bernard Tomlinson recommended the closure of Charing Cross, University College/Middlesex, and St Bartholomew's hospitals, and the merger of Guy's and St Thomas's, in addition to the closure of ten smaller hospitals.

The hospital closures will run in parallel to the expansion of London's primary health care services, rather than waiting until these are in place, because of the large costs involved. Sir Bernard predicted that the changes to primary health care alone will cost more than £150 million, but warned that these should be put in place before hospitals closed.

Health ministers have been

surprised by the subdued opposition to the closures so far, apart from campaigners from St Bartholomew's hospital. They want the hospital preserved as a specialist unit.

The future of this hospital is widely regarded as the litmus test of the government's resolve to tackle London services.

One ministerial source ventured yesterday that Mrs Bottomley might have to save the hospital as the price of implementing the rest of the plans. "Her style is that she takes ten steps forward and then retreats a couple, which means she still makes a lot of ground."

The argument for Tomlinson's recommendations is that for years the great London teaching hospitals have been taking up a disproportionate share of funds.

Meanwhile the row over alleged plans to give ministers an advance copy of a report by the Commons health select committee on NHS trusts is set to continue at Westminster.

Hugh Bayley, Labour MP for York, and a member of the committee, will propose at a meeting today that the report should go to health officials only on December 16, a day after embargoed copies are released to lobby correspondents.

Marion Roe, Tory chairman of the committee, has denied allegations that she was colluding with the health department to provide advanced copies. She cited standing order 116, which allows select committees to supply government departments with reports 48 hours in advance.

Alice Mahon, Labour MP for Halifax and a member of the committee, is now writing to Doug Hoyle, chairman of the parliamentary Labour party and the chairman of all the select committees, arguing that Labour MPs were unaware of this rule.

Mr Bayley has also tabled a parliamentary question to Mrs Bottomley asking her to supply the committee with advance copies of any government reports.

'IRA shot Shergar soon after kidnap'

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SHERGAR, the racehorse kidnapped by the IRA nearly ten years ago, was killed within hours of being seized, according to a report yesterday.

A former IRA police informer serving a life sentence in Northern Ireland for two murders told *The Sunday Times* that Shergar was shot because he could not be controlled.

Sean O'Callaghan, a senior figure in the IRA's southern command in 1983 when the kidnapping took place, said the nine-strong gang had recruited an experienced racehorse handler but they were unable to control the animal.

The five-year-old horse went into a frenzy and was killed within hours of being seized from a stud in Co. Kildare, west of Dublin. The horse was buried 100 miles away in an area of thick woodland.

No ransom money was paid for the Derby winner, who was owned by the Aga Khan and was worth an estimated £10 million. The IRA had hoped to raise £2 million to help buy weapons, including surface-to-air missiles for use against helicopters in Ulster.



Bottomley: unmoved by pleas for Bart's



Denim delight: the Fashion Acts Charity Designer Show at Earl's Court. Friday saw fashion editors practicing what they preach. Iain R. West of *The Times* described his Denim Dangeuse (above) as "a deconstructed vision of rococo extravagance with a trailing ripped fringed train". Fashion, page 13

Pupils miss holidays to revise

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

NO SOONER have the schools' Christmas holidays begun than some pupils are heading straight back into the classroom to revise for next year's GCSE and A-level examinations.

The timing of public examinations means that candidates are halfway through their school year by Christmas.

is running its first Christmas workshops today. Parents will be paying up to £75 a day for each of more than 30 pupils for intensive revision.

The timing of public examinations means that candidates are halfway through their school year by Christmas.

Growing numbers of schools now hold mock examinations at the start of the spring term.

Cerald Harte, one of the college's two principals, insists that the workshops will not destroy the holiday spirit. "Perhaps it is tough at the end of a long, hard term, but A-levels and GCSEs are getting ever closer and there is a need to plan ahead. Most pupils will have had a few days off before they come to us, and will still have plenty of time to enjoy Christmas."

The leaders of local education authorities will today try to convince Eric Forth, the education minister, that the government has over-estimated the number of surplus places in state schools. Councils claim that it is impossible to meet ministers' demands to cut 1.5 million school places.

Leading article, page 13

Loyalists blow hole in roof of Ulster jail

BY EDWARD GORMAN

A LARGE hole was blown in the roof of a wing of the top-security Crumlin Road jail in Belfast yesterday by an explosive device believed to have been fired from a hijacked taxi.

There were no injuries to inmates or prison officers. The attack, which may have involved a rocket or mortar, came just after 6pm. Responsibility was claimed by the Loyalist Military Command, a protestant paramilitary umbrella group.

Republican inmates, who usually eat in the A-wing dining room at 6pm, are believed to have been the target. This time last year IRA prisoners planted a small bomb in the dining room of C wing which killed a Loyalist inmate and injured eight others. All prisoners inside the

jail, which was visited last week by the Ulster secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, were immediately ordered back to their cells.

A former IRA member and Sinn Féin local election candidate, Malachy Carey, 36, of Loughguile, Co. Antrim, died in hospital yesterday after being shot by a loyalist gunman on Saturday as he walked to meet his girlfriend.

The Ulster Freedom Fighters, another name for the Ulster Defence Association, which was outlawed in August, said in a statement to the BBC in Belfast that it carried out the killing.

John Collett, 36, whose legs were amputated after an IRA punishment shooting in Londonderry on Tuesday, has also died in hospital. He had been on a life-support machine.

Serb tells his murderous tale

Continued from page 1 where he received his basic training. The first hint of the sort of work expected of him emerged when he and other Bosnian Serb volunteers were shown a demonstration of hand-to-hand combat using pigs. Soon afterwards in the village of Donja Bioca, Mr Herak, 21, said in an interview at Sarajevo's Victor Bubanj military prison that he was ordered to repeat the exercise on Bosnian Muslims.

He killed three prisoners with a bin hunting blade, an episode he recounted in a detached, almost dispassionate fashion: "They did not resist, but one of them told me he had a wife and two children. His name was Ahmed Ziad Osman." Mr Herak volunteered the information readily and insisted that he had not been coerced or mistreated during his captivity. Professor Aida Hasimbegovic, a clinical psychologist, said he displayed no severe psychological problems that would make him unfit to stand trial.

That impression was confirmed when he described in a clear manner the grim saga of how his unit took part in the "cleansing" of the Muslim



Herak: cannot live with his actions

village of Ahlatovic, north of Sarajevo, last summer. This time he used a Kalashnikov rifle to shoot 20 civilians and then joined other Serbs in looting homes.

"The order was that nobody should stay alive, we should kill everybody," he said, adding that the instructions had come down from the area commander in the town of Iljias. "We did not have any choice. He told us what had to be done, and we did it."

In probably the most gruesome episode, he said that

Serb fighters were encouraged to rape young Bosnian women at a prison turned military brothel where inmates were killed to make way for the arrival of newcomers.

"I raped the girls in the motel and then took them to the Zuc hill [north of Sarajevo], shot them and hid their bodies. I raped 10 girls in their twenties and killed six of them," he said, identifying victims by name — Anissa, Fatima, Maira, Sabina, and Senada. He insisted that he was forced to act against his will because of the threat of punishment by his superiors.

What makes his account disturbing is the clear impression that his actions were by no means an isolated case but part of a widespread practice. The prospect of a trial and execution did not daunt the young prisoner, who said that he looked forward to the judgment because he could no longer live with what he had done. But he doubted it would have any impact in preventing further brutalities.

"All I know is that while I am here sitting and talking, these same horrors are going on somewhere else," he said.

No-fly ban, page 8

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charities to share state lottery profits

PETER Brooke, the heritage secretary, will promise charities a special share in proceeds of the £4 billion-a-year national lottery when he unveils legislation this week. He will guarantee that a slice of the proceeds will go towards "charitable works" as well as arts, sports and heritage projects when the lottery starts in 1994. He is also anxious to make sure that small charities benefit. Restrictions on charities and football pools will also be swept away to appease MPs who believe that a national state-run lottery would put the other sectors at risk.

The rules governing competitions run by voluntary bodies are likely to be relaxed, opening the way for charities to run their own lottery schemes. Restrictions on advertising the pools will be lifted and companies are likely to be allowed to sell coupons in shops and elsewhere. Changes in rules and betting duty have not been finally sanctioned, but Mr Brooke is planning to tell MPs this week that he believes charities will be better off after the national lottery starts. He has made it clear to colleagues that he regards as grossly exaggerated claims by pools companies that they will lose £40 million a year and 6,500 jobs because of the lottery.

Doubt on park 'attack'

A London police sergeant who claimed to have been attacked by gunmen in Hyde Park, starting a terrorist alert across central London during the rush hour last month, may face questions over his future after detectives concluded there was no evidence he had been attacked (Stewart Tensler writes). Scotland Yard said in a statement: "A thorough investigation has now established there was no terrorist involvement. Following extensive enquiries, independent witnesses have been seen and interviewed. However, there is no evidence to support the original allegation by the officer of a serious assault... The officer remains on sick leave." Sergeant Philip Thomas, 41, was found in the park with blood on him calling for help on his radio. Police believed he had been pistol-whipped after interrupting a terrorist attack.

Channel link progress

British Rail's plans for a high-speed rail link between London and the Channel tunnel are expected to be passed this week to the transport department, with details released later to the public. Protests over previous schemes for the route, which BR had originally planned across Kent, and the government's insistence that private companies take a lead in building the line have caused repeated delays to a start on the high-speed link.

A transport department spokesman said: "When we receive the report, we will consider it carefully and make an announcement on the next stage as soon as possible. We want to end unnecessary delay and uncertainty."

Aids tests in pregnancy

Pregnant women are to be offered Aids tests under new health department guidelines, part of the department's policy to make screening for HIV anti-bodies more accessible to people in high-risk categories. Tests will be offered to women who believe they may be at risk. It is not planned to make the test routine for all of the one million women who become pregnant each year. A report last year showed that one in every 500 sexually active women in inner London was carrying the virus.

Homeowners stay put

The backlog of homeowners prevented from moving by the housing market has risen, according to a survey. The Alliance and Leicester building society says that 31 per cent of people questioned recently said they had delayed a move because of the depressed housing market, an increase of 3 per cent on surveys in May and January. The greatest backlogs are in London (8.8 per cent), the East Midlands (5.6) and South Yorkshire (5.7). Among those least affected are the South West (2.4), East Anglia (2.4) and the North (2.2).

Dead fox thrown at ball

Several people have been charged with public order offences after revellers at a hunt ball at the weekend were mobbed by about a hundred protesters. Anti-hunt activists hurled a dead fox and threw eggs and flour at guests as they arrived for the East Sussex and Romney Marsh Hunt ball at the Winter Gardens in Eastbourne. One policeman was injured and cars were damaged as some protesters tried to enter the building. Police said: "Because of disturbances in previous years a police operation was pre-planned."

Pit women end sit-in

Five women, including Anne Scargill (right), the wife of the NUM president, ended their sit-in at a south Yorkshire coal mine after occupying a conference room for 48 hours in protest at the planned pit closures. The women, who claimed they had been told their jobs were at risk, marched out of the gates of Markham Main pit near Doncaster in a procession of 500 people, led by the colliery band.



Mosque firebombed

Two men were arrested near the Newham North Islamic and Muslim Centre in Forest Gate, east London, yesterday after two petrol-filled milk bottles were thrown at the building. The blazing bottles smashed a window but failed to go through and the window frame was charred. On Saturday a brick was thrown through a window at the centre.

Racing yachtsman dies

A yachtsman died yesterday after he and two other crew members were swept overboard during a race in the Milford Haven estuary in west Wales. Keith Rogers, 53, was taken by helicopter to hospital in Haverfordwest but died later. Keith Jones, 55, and Simon Hurst, 34, were unhurt. All three men are from Pembroke Dock, Dyfed.

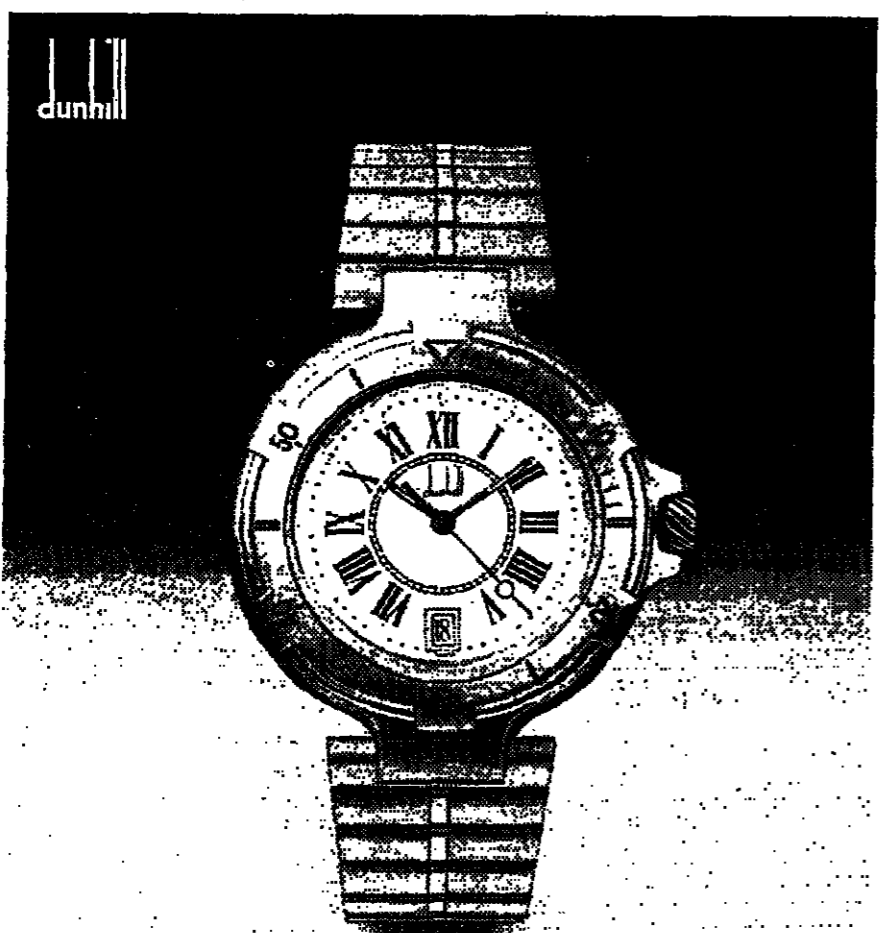
Colonel in gun scare

Police were called to a house in Ashford, Kent, on Saturday after the wife and neighbours of a 55-year-old retired army colonel claimed he had a loaded revolver. About 40 officers, some armed, sealed off the area and waited for more than 24 hours until he emerged. A spokesman said: "A man was arrested and will be examined and then questioned."

Seabirds identified

Seabirds seen on the northeast coast of England for the past four summers have been identified as Sooty terns by the use of three years of research including DNA "genetic fingerprinting". *Birding World* magazine reports. The terns nest on islands off Japan, Korea and China and normally come no nearer to Britain than the Indian Ocean.

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THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1992

HOME NEWS 3

Joy for the Princess Royal, but most believe that crowning the Waleses would be a mockery

Opinion polls show support for William as next King

By ROBIN YOUNG

TWO opinion polls published yesterday disclose that many people believe Prince William, and not his father Prince Charles, should succeed the Queen as the next British monarch.

Other findings in a plethora of polls that have been published in the wake of the royal separation suggested that a majority opposes the possibility that the Princess of Wales might become Queen.

The polls also suggest that most people would not see divorce as damaging Prince Charles's right to succeed to the throne.

The suggestion that the crown should pass directly from the Queen to Prince William, by-passing Prince Charles, commanded 42 per cent support in a poll published by the *News of the World*. This figure rose to 49 per cent in an ICM poll that was conducted for the *Sunday Express*.

In the *News of the World* poll, for which 511 people were telephoned by Continental Research, two thirds said the constitutional position that could still allow the prince and princess to become King and Queen "made a mockery of the monarchy".

Fewer than a fifth thought that the couple should still be jointly crowned and while a third thought that Prince Charles should succeed alone, the biggest single group expressing a view said they believed that the crown should pass directly to Prince William.

In the *Sunday Express*, for which more than 1,000 respondents were questioned, only 45 per cent wanted Prince Charles to claim the throne — 4 per cent fewer than those who supported his son's succession.

There was greater encouragement for Prince Charles in the *Sunday Times*. A telephone poll of 614 people by Mori found that 60 per cent

supported his succession despite the separation.

There was even greater support, by up to two thirds, for his becoming King if he divorced.

Asked if the prince should still succeed if he divorced and remarried, 54 per cent were in favour.

A Gallup survey in the *Sunday Telegraph* found that 62 per cent would prefer to see the prince and princess divorce after two years rather than continue with the separation arrangement.

Of 620 people personally interviewed for the survey, 60 per cent believed the separation had damaged the monarchy "a great deal".

A total of 43 per cent said they thought the prince should at some stage renounce the throne in favour of Prince William.

The *Telegraph* poll found that 56 per cent would disapprove of the Princess of Wales becoming queen now that she is separated. In the *Sunday Times* the figure was 57 per cent.

An NOP poll of more than 1,000 people for *The Mail on Sunday* and ITN reported that 52 per cent believed the Prince of Wales should succeed to the throne if he remained separated from his wife, while 54 per cent believed he should become king after a divorce.

Previously unpublished answers to Mori's poll showed that 77 per cent of respondents believed that the public's attitude to the monarchy would be improved by the recent offer of the Queen to pay income tax.

Only 10 per cent thought the government should, as it intends, pay for the restoration of Windsor Castle.

This compares with 48 per cent who thought the cost should be shared with the Queen and 38 per cent who thought the Queen should pay the entire bill for the repairs.



Piped blessing: The Princess Royal and Commander Laurence with their families at the door of Crathie Church after the ceremony

'Keep everything under control'

Continued from page 1

Queen Mother prepared to step down from the high vehicle. The Duke of York raced to find her a small stepping stool. "I can do it, you know," his grandmother was plainly heard to say. "Wait," the Duke commanded. She did it anyway.

Finally came another Range Rover, driven by the Duke of Edinburgh, with the bride, in a cream suit and her flower-decked hair flowing down her back, in the front passenger seat and her daughter Zara, acting as bridesmaid, in the back. They all looked faintly nervous.

As he received the bride at the door the Rev Keith Angus, minister of Crathie, in the red cassock of a chaplain royal, gave her some brief instructions: there had been no opportunity for a rehearsal. The privately-shot video film, later made available to television networks, overheard the bride telling all and sundry: "Keep everything under control". Then, seeing a microphone near by, the Princess ordered it unplugged.

Commander Laurence stood before

the communion table of Iona marble with his best man, Charles Barker-Wyatt. The Princess stood beside him with Zara. Above, the expressionless bust of Queen Victoria gazed down upon a scene which is unlikely to have amused her. The minister proceeded with the standard wedding service from the Church of Scotland's Book of Common Order. Marriage was "ordained for the continuance of the holy ordinance of family life, that children who are the heritage of the Lord shall be duly nurtured and trained up in Godliness".

Bride and groom promised to stay "loving, faithful and loyal... until God shall separate us by death". The couple knelt before the communion table for a blessing and in barely half an hour the first royal wedding ever to be conducted on Deeside was over.

At the church door a piper played *Mairi's Wedding*. The motorcade hurtled back to the castle in what was by now an enveloping dusk. The bride, illuminated by television lights, offered a broad smile as she flashed by, earning a small cheer. "She looked the

happiest I've ever seen her look. I think she got what she wanted," said a lady from inside layers of tweed.

Others, by now fighting off hypothermia, seemed undismayed that such a long wait had been rewarded with such brief glimpses. Alastair Webster and his wife Julie, from Australia, thought it all a great British tradition, adding their belief that their own country would be a republic within ten years. Mr Nashimoto jabbered excitedly to his camera. "Japanese very interested in this news," he said between takes.

The moment the motorcade had disappeared back within the safety of the castle grounds the church was locked up and the crowd dispersed in urgent search of warmth. Inside the estate the champagne reception was reportedly in full swing in a tea-room normally used by the public when the castle is open in early summer.

The Queen, who is famously careful with money and may soon be paying the expense accounts of her children from her own pocket, judged it too expensive to open up the main castle

for an afternoon. Within two hours the party was over.

The Queen and other members of the royal family sped the 50 miles to Aberdeen airport to catch waiting aircraft of the Queen's flight to the balmy climate of southern England. Bride and groom were left alone at Craigowan House, a property on the estate hastily refurbished for the occasion. There was word of a candlelit dinner with the Princess's two children, Peter and Zara.

The honeymoon will be brief. Commander Laurence is expected back at his desk in the Defence Ministry, and the Princess will resume her public duties, tomorrow.

Yesterday a few cold cameramen continued to keep vigil by the church, hoping that the couple might appear at the normal Sunday morning service, which they did not.

The newsmen's only reward for patience was to be entertained by two Grampian traffic policemen wrestling an errant sheep which was sauntering up the middle of the road in the direction of Braemar.

Separation coverage by Sun 'was obscene'

By ADAM FRESCO

A MINISTER of the church whose daughter was raped yesterday criticised the tabloid press for their coverage of the separation of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Canon Michael Saward's comments came three days after his daughter Jill attacked certain newspapers before a Commons select committee for their coverage of her ordeal in 1986.

During his sermon at St Paul's Cathedral, where he is canon in residence, Canon Saward said that the role of the mass media, especially the tabloid press, in the separation of the prince and princess could not be ignored.

He condemned some of the reporting of the announcement that they were to part, singling out the coverage of the *Sun* as "grotesque and obscene". Present laws left the press able to "render any civilised family life almost impossible for those who are, justly or unjustly, the victims".

Canon Saward added: "I speak here as one whose family has suffered gross intrusion into grief and horror from the mass media. It is hardly accidental that, in response to the prime minister's call for a moratorium as regards media prying into the life of the Prince and Princess of Wales, the *Sun* newspaper — if one may call it that — devoted almost all of its first 34 pages to this story on Thursday morning."

"Such coverage is grotesque and obscene in its insensitivity and it will thoroughly deserve any parliamentary restriction on its behaviour should such a course of action result from the present deliberations of the Houses of Parliament."

His daughter had also attacked the *Sun* for publishing a photograph of her shortly after the rape with only her eyes blacked out, and called for new laws to curb invasions of privacy by the media.

Canon Saward added that although self-regulation of the press was preferable to government action, that appeared unlikely to be achieved in the present climate.

Rival du Maurier biographer claims he is vindicated by lesbian love letters

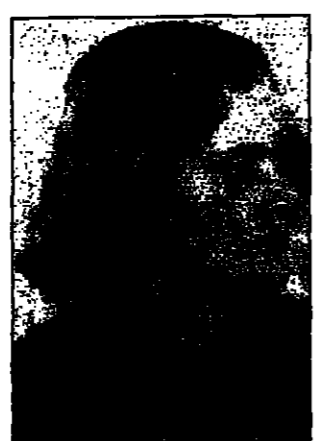
By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

NEW evidence of Daphne du Maurier's homosexuality has caused a fresh outbreak of hostilities between her biographers. Maryn Shallcross, whose biography hinted at a lesbian affair, is now demanding an apology from the "literary mafia" who, he claims, were intent on discrediting him and covering up du Maurier's true story.

A secret correspondence between Dame Daphne and Gertrude Lawrence, the actress who died in 1952, has been uncovered and is now in the hands of Margaret Forster, her official biographer. The letters are thought to contain explicit evidence of the affair between the two women, and Forster is reported to be rewriting her book to include them. Shallcross, who says he has always known about du Maurier's lesbian affairs and hinted at them in his early memoir, says that he has been proved right. He is seeking an apology from Forster and du Maurier's family for attacking his version of the author's life.

Shallcross, who maintains that he was a close friend of the queen of popular fiction, who died in April 1989 at the age of 82, is adding another chapter to his own work. He spoke fully about his private knowledge for the first time. "It all stems from Daphne's father, who was bisexual himself. Daphne had one govern-

■ A reputed secret correspondence between the author and Gertrude Lawrence has reopened a literary war of words



Du Maurier: "a wild spirit and bohemian"



Lawrence: "intrigued by du Maurier"

ess after another and she was very insecure. She adored her father. She had an obsession with incest. But she had a very unstable and unhappy childhood and was strongly attracted to older women afterwards. "She always had a photo of Gertrude Lawrence in her bedroom at Menabilly. During rehearsals for a play in London, du Maurier became very interested in Gertrude and she was intrigued by her — that's when it all began and it lasted for many years. She was crazy about Gertrude, truly in love with her," Christian

Browning, du Maurier's son and one of her literary executors, would not comment yesterday.

Forster said that Shallcross's book was criticised only because it contained "unsubstantiated allegations" and quoted no sources. She would not comment on the letters, saying the world must wait for her authorised biography, written with the help of the family and due out next year.

Shallcross maintains that Rebecca, du Maurier's best-loved novel, contains strong lesbian undertones. "If it is

treated as a straightforward Barbara Cartland romance, then all the power of the book is lost. I think Forster is treating Daphne like a twin-set and pearls character, but that's exactly what she wasn't. She was a wild spirit and a real bohemian."

Shallcross's book, *The Private World of Daphne du Maurier*, published last year, was heavily criticised by Forster and by the du Maurier family, who called it cheap and sensational. Du Maurier fans refused to believe that the author of classics such as *Jamaica Inn* and *Frenchman's Creek* broke 1930s sexual taboos.

Judith Cook, whose biography *Daphne: A Portrait of Daphne du Maurier* was also poorly received, was surprised by the new dispute and said that her research had not revealed any intimate relationships with women. "It's true that her father had a weird effect on his children's sexual development, but I truly did not think that du Maurier was gay. And Lawrence was a positive nymphomaniac."

Shallcross is still bitter about his treatment. "I was attacked by what I call the literary mafia, which was established by authors like Margaret Forster. They said that I had made it up. If the family had collaborated with me, rather than attack me, we could have written a marvellous book because I really did know Daphne very well," he said.

007's intimate secrets go under the hammer

By ANDREW LYCETT

THE intimate relationship between James Bond, secret agent 007, and his creator, Ian Fleming, will become public property tomorrow when the author's working notebook is auctioned at Sotheby's.

Inside a flimsy 128-page looseleaf notebook Fleming, the former wartime spy, jotted down ideas for the Bond books and personal reflections. It is being sold by his step-daughter, Fiona Morgan. Part of the proceeds (estimated at up to £30,000) will go to the London Library appeal.

The entries were called during Fleming's travels to cities such as Tokyo, Berlin and Bombay. His discovery that

the Japanese for "top secret" is *gokushi* (you only live twice) gave him one of his best-known titles, while his notes on gold smuggling in the Far East led to the plot for *Goldfinger*.

Fleming tried out names, including the villain Blofeld, first noted in November 1958 and used in *Thunderball* in 1961. The notebook contains many of the sharp descriptions of people and places that are characteristic of his novels, such as: "She had a blunt, short-tipped mouth, proud like a half-healed wound."

The melancholic strain in the notebook reflects Fleming's personal crisis as he struggled with advancing middle-age and ill health. The horrors of losing one's faculties are starkly drawn in these pages: "Most people are unconscious up

to 17, dreaming until 25, awake to 39, mad after 40, dead after 60," he wrote.

Troubled with sciatica and kidney stones, as well as his failing marriage to his dynamic wife, Anne, Fleming was undoubtedly writing from experience when he noted: "Pain is a private address. Only those who have been that way before know the unlisted number."

His last work, published posthumously in 1966, was a short story, *The Property of a Lady*, which has Bond at Sotheby's bidding against the resident London KGB director. Perhaps some latter-day Bond will step in and bid to prevent this important literary document going to the United States.

Diary, page 12

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Companies condemn parasites of insolvency

By TONY DAWES

THE people who are making the biggest killing out of the recession, the liquidators and receivers of bankrupt companies, have been described as "parasites" because of the high fees they charge and the poor deals they often secure for creditors.

Their "victims", ranging from Mirror Group pensioners to small businessmen, are incensed by the mounting profits of the companies which specialise in insolvency practice.

Many MPs, and even insolvency experts themselves, believe that bankruptcy procedures require urgent revision. Cork Gully, the country's biggest practice, has 900 people working on insolvencies compared with 600 two

As bankruptcies reach a record 80,000 this year, insolvency firms are accused of profiteering and face calls for changes

years ago. It earned £74 million from the business in the year ending March 31.

Its rival, Touche Ross, has charged £40 million for unravelling the Bank of Credit and Commerce International collapse with senior partners such as Chris Morris and Brian Smouha charging several hundred pounds an hour for their services.

The investigation into the business affairs of the late Robert Maxwell by accountants, lawyers and investment bankers is costing more than £1 million a week.

Keith Vaz, the Labour MP

for Leicester East who has championed the cause of BCCI depositors and staff, described the liquidator's fees as "a scandal". He said: "They are becoming rich on the victims' money."

John McQueen, chief executive of the Bankruptcy Association, said: "Many receivers and liquidators are behaving like parasites living off struggling companies."

"Most of the money they recover goes in fees and creditors usually see little, if any, return from the bankruptcy machine."

He added that this happened because many insolvency firms are paid by the hour instead of by results. They are also being swamped with more and more work. The cutting edge of the recession is felt most keenly in the statistic that personal and company failures in Britain passed the 80,000 mark this year.

People involved in small liquidations, such as Gill and Eddie Hankey of Hull, are particularly bitter about the way they have been treated. Receivers from Cork Gully's Sheffield office were appointed to their family business when their bank withdrew overdraft facilities.

"They sold a company with £200,000 worth of blue-chip orders and £200,000 worth of equipment for just £35,000," Mrs Hankey claimed.

"By the time they had taken their fees there was nothing left for us or the creditors."

The deal left the couple still owing the bank £88,000 and they were forced out of their home as the house had been taken as security. "Not only did we lose our business but our family was split up as well," said Mrs Hankey.

"Our eldest daughter left home because of the tension and when we moved my

mother, who had a granny flat in our house, had to go into council accommodation". Jackie Morgan claimed that the liquidators who moved into her fashion company in Sussex sold designer clothes, which had cost £20,000 and were still unpacked, for just £1,500. She saw dresses worth more than £50 for sale on market stalls for £4.99.

The liquidators had been appointed by Customs and Excise because she owed £6,000 in value-added tax. "If they had let me have a sale, they would have got their full amount back," she said.

"Because of the way they handled it, the VATman received only a fraction of what they were owed and other people got nothing."

Barry Ambrose, a plumber from Nottingham, was bankrupted by Customs and Excise over a disputed VAT bill, which was finally agreed at £2,100.

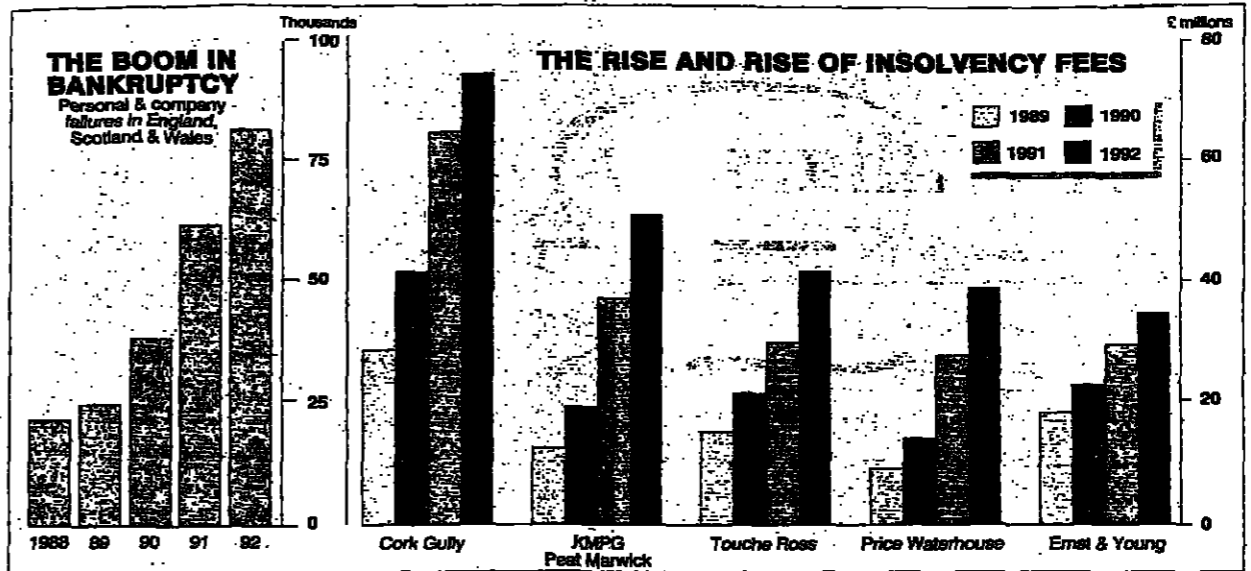
He and his wife Ann could have paid that amount, but while they were negotiating with local officials, Customs and Excise lawyers in London petitioned for his bankruptcy.

The couple have now been presented with a bill for £15,000 by Pannell Kerr Forster, who were appointed as their trustees in bankruptcy. As Mr and Mrs Ambrose argued about the size of the bill and another bill from the Inland Revenue, the trustees made enquiries about the small detached home that the couple jointly own.

"The trustees asked me if I could buy out my husband's share," Mrs Ambrose said.

"When I told them I could not, they said 'We are going to have your house, don't bother fighting it'. I came away stunned. It was like being mugged."

Alan Simpson, Labour MP for Nottingham South, who has taken up the plumber's case, said: "It is absolutely outrageous that the trustees have the power they do and can charge such fees without question."



Bitter: Gill and Eddie Hankey lost their home

Business left deeper in debt by receivers

By TONY DAWES

CASE STUDY

WHEN Keith Raven and his two partners realised that their adhesive-tape manufacturing company in Corby, Northamptonshire, was running into financial difficulties, they arranged to sell it for £58,000. Their bankers, to whom they owed money, refused to sanction the deal and the partners were urged to appoint KPMG Peat Marwick as receivers.

The business was eventually sold by the receivers for £64,000, but their fees for achieving this extra £6,000 came to more than £20,000. These fees, other statutory charges involved in receivership and interest on his overdraft left Mr Raven owing the bank £25,000 instead of the £7,000 he would have owed if the first deal had been approved. He was forced to leave his home, which the bank is trying to sell, and move into lodgings. Mr Raven is one of thou-

sands of small businessmen who are bitterly critical of Britain's bankruptcy procedures. "If we had been left to sort out the problems we would have done a better job and ended up with fewer debts," he said.

"Within three working days of their appointment, the receivers had sacked everybody except me, closed the business down and advertised it for sale. It was a bitter disappointment."

A spokesman for Peat Marwick said that his firm had reservations about the original offer for Mr Raven's company while the deal achieved was a sound one. "We are happy that our fees are justified," he added. "There was a considerable amount of work to be done, book debts to be collected, and the staff and secured and unsecured creditors to be considered."

Survey finds Britons pay 40% more for some models

Car-makers may have to produce guide to Europe's bargain buys

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

THE European Commission will move this week to make car manufacturers produce comparative price lists to help buyers find out where the bargains are.

Denials by British manufacturers that UK motorists get a bad deal have failed to convince EC consumer groups, which claim that, for example, a five-door 1392cc Ford Fiesta costs 45 per cent more in Britain than in France.

A report by the Bureau of European Consumer Unions shows that prices can differ by 51 per cent, with British prices among the highest.

EC competition rules stipulate that price differences for the same car in different EC markets should not exceed 12 per cent and that customers must be free to import.

UK manufacturers claim that the European research was carried out before the pound's realignment in the exchange-rate mechanism and that it also did not allow for specification differences. They argue that discounts offered by UK dealers are greater than in the rest of Europe.

Laura Mosca, author of the report, said: "We have found prices to be around 40 per cent higher in the UK than else-

where and devaluation will only have reduced prices by 10 per cent at most." She said the bureau was aware of differences in specifications and had compared 13 identical models.

Simon Hinde of the Consumers' Association said: "The

discount excuse is a smokescreen by the car industry to hide inflated prices. Discounts exist in other European countries and anyway, not everyone gets them."

Under a Commission plan to be announced this week, manufacturers will have to

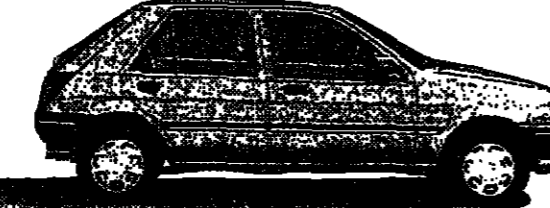
select a representative car from their product range and, each May and November, publish the price, in euros and local currency and before and after tax, in the EC countries. They will also have to supply information about delivery costs, warranty, roadside assistance options and common extras such as air-conditioning, right-hand drive and power steering.

EC officials have indicated that the plan is not legally binding, but manufacturers who do not co-operate will risk losing their right to distribute through exclusive dealerships.

A spokesman from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said: "The motor industry's view is that until such time as we have a single currency and harmonisation of taxes throughout the Community, price lists of this nature will be difficult to produce."

Consumer organisations say prices in the UK are higher because company cars, which account for more than half of sales, distort the market. Britain's geography also makes it more difficult to import cars and some manufacturers claim, falsely, that it is more expensive to make right-hand-drive cars.

FORD FIESTA: PRICES ACROSS EUROPE



Source: Bureau of European Consumer Unions

Scientists call for improved monitoring of exhaust fumes

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE monitoring of car pollution in British cities needs a radical shake-up, according to a report by a government-appointed group of scientists published today.

The network of stations monitoring car exhaust fumes, which are prompting health concerns of a kind once associated with London smogs, is too small, not properly coordinated, and backed up by inadequate research, according to a committee of specialists brought together by the environment department to review the quality of urban air.

Its first report, published 40 years after the great London "pea-souper" of December 1952, which claimed 4,000 lives in five days, and a year after London's worst episode of motor vehicle pollution, will add to growing pressure on the government to introduce restrictions on traffic growth and movement, although the group's terms of reference preclude it from calling for them directly.

The 1952 smog was likened to pea soup because of its impenetrable thickness, but a better comparison might have been lemon juice. The dark cloud of smoke that reduced visibility throughout London to less than five yards contained millions of droplets of sulphuric acid, formed from

the sulphur dioxide emitted by thousands of coal fires. "We've largely got rid of the old type of smogs, thanks to the Clean Air Act and changes in fuel use," said the group's chairman, Professor Roy Harrison, professor of environmental health at Birmingham University. "But what we've seen instead has been a massive growth of motor vehicles, and we've just exchanged one type of pollution for another. The new type of smog is much less visible, but not necessarily less serious."

The report warns that urban concentrations of two of the worst car pollutants, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide, exceed international health guidelines in many areas where there is heavy traffic. It also says the beneficial effect of catalytic converters—pollution control systems mandatory on all new cars from next month—is likely to be swamped by the sheer growth of motor vehicle traffic, which is expected to double by 2025.

High levels of oxides of nitrogen, known generically as NOx, cause breathing difficulties and are a prime suspect in the increase in asthma in children, while carbon monoxide adds to the difficulties of people with poor blood circulation. In May, a report from the government's Warren

Spring laboratory revealed that NOx levels in Britain had increased by 35 per cent in five years, and a third of the 363 sites measured showed levels above the World Health Organisation guidelines.

The scientists' report indicates that the present air quality monitoring network is inadequate to cope with the situation. Last February, the government launched a series of high-technology monitoring stations, measuring several pollutants simultaneously, in London and five other cities. The scientists believe this should be increased to cover at least 24 cities and towns.

The environment department's own monitoring stations, set up for diverse reasons such as compliance with EC laws, is "now in urgent need of rationalisation and review", the report says.

A year ago, yesterday, London suffered its worst recorded incident of traffic pollution when a "temperature inversion" sent nitrogen dioxide levels soaring in central parts of the capital.

"There don't seem to have been any short-term health effects from this episode, but people are worried about the long-term effects, particularly on the immune system," said Tim Brown, of the National Society for Clean Air.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stressed? Grin and bear it

Health and safety campaigners are this week urging people to smile in a drive to fight stress in the run-up to Christmas. Smile for Safety Week aims to counteract the effects of stress and tension, which are the greatest causes of ill health and accidents, during what can be the most stressful time of year.

James Tye, director-general of the British Safety Council, said: "Smiling is the key to wellness and now is the time to start on the road to a happier, healthier, stress-free life."

Dr Robert Zanzig, psychology professor at the University of Michigan, said: "There is a definite link between facial expressions and the way people behave. When we smile, relaxation and healing chemicals enter the blood stream and the body returns to a natural, balanced state."

Prescott crash

John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, crashed into an unlit car-trailer on the M56 on Saturday after it became separated during another collision. Mr Prescott's Daewoo was badly damaged but neither he nor his wife was hurt.

466 die at work

Accidents at work killed 466 people in Britain last year and caused serious injury to 179,388, the Health and Safety Commission said.

Man is held

South African police are questioning a man over the murder of Elizabeth Over, of Albans, Hertfordshire, and Julie Godwin, of Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, whose bodies were found near Sodwana Bay, Zululand, last month.

Jumbo growth

Gardeners can now buy elephant manure from Chester Zoo by mail order. A 30lb bag costs £3 plus postage. A zoo official said: "It's better than horse manure. Elephants are good chewers."

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond draw: £100,000, number 6WK 955011, who lives in Cumbria (value of holding £1,721); £50,000, 11EK 173445, Blackburn (value of holding £410); £25,000, 20HP 316451, Buckinghamshire (£2,100).

Hill farmers protest at £20m subsidy cut

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

HILL farmers have protested strongly against a cut of £20 million in their subsidies next year.

David Naish, the president of the National Farmers' Union, has written to the prime minister to say that the cut had

provoked disbelief and would be a severe blow. Thousands of sheep and cattle producers in hill areas such as North Wales and Cumbria receive the special subsidies to offset the handicap of farming in inhospitable terrain where arable agriculture is not possible.

Mr Naish said it was particularly damaging that John Gummer, the agriculture min-

ister, had announced the cuts at the same time as the prime minister had been offering assurances of his support for a viable future for farming.

Mr Gummer told the Commons on Thursday that the subsidies—known as hill livestock compensatory allowances—would be cut in the most severely disadvantaged areas from £8.75 to £6.50 per head for hardy-breed ewes (a cut of 26 per cent) and from £4.90 to £2.90 per head for other sheep (27 per cent).

The cuts were justified, Mr Gummer said, because hill farmers were expecting a significant rise in incomes for the second year running. That was due to strong lamb prices and the pound's devaluation, which had increased the sterling value of EC farm subsidies fixed in European currency units.

As a result, the special hill livestock payments, which are mainly funded by the national

exchequer, were "considered to be greater than is necessary to compensate for the permanent natural handicaps of farming in those areas".

John Thorpe, secretary of the National Sheep Association, said: "This is an absolute disaster. Mr Gummer is cracking. He is deliberately hurting one of the few areas of agriculture that generates a positive trade balance. The whole country will suffer."

The Council for the Protection of Rural England said it was environmentally absurd to cut subsidies for hill farmers, who were responsible for the upkeep of the country's upland landscapes, when millions were being spent on the folly and bureaucracy of "set aside", the EC policy of reducing cereal surpluses.

Andy Wilson, the council's senior policy officer, said the right approach was to discourage over-stocking by switching to area payments.



Fog-bound: London in December 1952, when 4,000 people died in five days

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THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1992

HOME NEWS 5

'Enjoy it now and forget tomorrow'

Northern shoppers carry on spending despite recession

By PAUL WILKINSON AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

UNEMPLOYMENT in the north of England might have reached 25 per cent in some places, but people with money seem to be doing their best to spend the country out of recession.

The "spend it while you've got it" attitude has helped Britain's third biggest holiday firm, Manchester-based Airtours, to increase profits this year by a third while shopping centres such as the huge Metrocentre outside Newcastle are reporting a thriving Christmas trade.

Announcing profits of £36.5 million, David Crossland, Airtours chairman, said: "People who live in the north have lower mortgages and have therefore benefited more quickly from lower interest rates. We now fill 65 per cent of our flights with northerners and only about 35 per cent are south of Watford."

By concentrating on the north the package firm has increased the number of its passengers by 34 per cent compared with an industry-wide rise of 12 per cent.

Bob Tilmouth, chief executive of the Tyne and Wear chamber of commerce, said: "There has always been an attitude here of 'If you have money, let's enjoy it today and

don't worry about tomorrow'. Unemployment might be up to 25 per cent in some places, but that means that 75 per cent have still got money to spend. You just have to look at places like the Metrocentre and Eldon Square in Newcastle. They are wall-to-wall people."

Mr Tilmouth said people were benefiting from the lower mortgage rates, while northern building societies had been more prudent in their lending than some in the south. "They didn't go potty, throwing money around like some I could mention, and as a result there's not such a big problem with repossession. The levels here are normal. Each one is a tragedy, but they are not on the scale you are seeing in the South East."

The region's black economy is another reason why people in the North East have money to spend. Unemployment is something its people have lived with for generations and have had to learn how to handle. The threat of a lost job is not so worrying as it might be to someone in the South East because a resourceful Geordie can always find a source of income, no matter how clandestine.

"Don't ask me for facts and

figures," said Mr Tilmouth. "You would never get them. But we know what goes on."

However, he dismissed suggestions that the end of the slump was in sight. "The North has ridden the recession better than the South East but there are no green shoots of recovery sprouting here just yet. We are about to start on our regular survey of business for the last quarter of the year and initial soundings suggest things are even quieter now than they were earlier this year," he said.

Julian Hulce, chief executive of Manchester airport, said the Airtours success was seen as a bright spot on an otherwise dark scene.

"Both Airtours and Manchester airport have reported business up on last year, but then that was depressed by the effects of the Gulf war. It's good to see someone is doing well, but I don't see too many others," he said.

One reason for an increase in holidaymakers could be the number of people being made redundant, he said. "People may be spending some of their savings, but in the North West there are no real signs of growth or optimism."



Happy days: Harry Ramsden's fish and chip restaurant in Ilkley, Yorkshire

New pilots will wing their way on to the dole queue

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

TWENTY-TWO student pilots sponsored by British Airways will graduate from Britain's two biggest air training schools next month and immediately join more than 600 qualified pilots who are out of work.

Once the students have received their "wings", no new British pilots will be under training unless they have paid up to £50,000 each to take a course or are converting from the job of flight engineer.

The collapse of Dan-Air and other recent airline failures have left hundreds of pilots without jobs and created a lost generation of would-be commercial pilots who have little hope of getting full-time employment with an airline for several years.

The British Aerospace Flying College at Prestwick in Scotland and the Oxford Air Training School, which have each produced thousands of pilots, now rely on foreign students to keep going.

Captain Dave Thomas, chief instructor, said: "We used to be firmly based with British Airways trainee pilots, but they stopped sending us any more than a year ago."

For the past four years, dozens of pilots who qualified through the school could not find a job, leading many of them to find temporary work, often as stewards. Over the next ten years, an estimated 2,000 BA pilots will retire at the age of 55 so the young,

untrained pilots will gradually be taken on the staff after completing refresher courses. However, no new trainees are likely to be enrolled for some time.

Nevertheless, both schools are optimistic that the prospects will improve soon. "I am convinced that the tide is turning," Captain Thomas said. "This has always been a cyclical industry and people who apply now to get in a year's time could have a much better chance than those who applied a year ago."

Ken Meehan, principal of the Oxford school, is even more optimistic. "There is still a splendid future for any boy or girl contemplating a career as a professional pilot," he said.

The school is 70 per cent full, mainly with foreign students and self-sponsored British students. Like Prestwick, the Oxford school has sold its expertise to the Middle East and Southeast Asia, where airlines are still expanding.

However, with European and American airlines losing money heavily, and little sign of the anticipated recovery, the immediate prospects for would-be pilots are bleak.

A group of 16 pilots from RAF Cranwell will spend their Christmas holiday cooking a festive meal for 70 children at an orphanage in Uganda — but first they will have to build the kitchen at the Masindi Centre for the Disabled.

Police begin seasonal crackdown on street trade in fake goods

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

POLICE and trading standards officers have launched a crackdown on illegal traders selling fake brand-name products to Christmas shoppers.

Consumers looking for bargain-priced presents were warned to be on their guard as millions of pounds worth of fake perfumes, videos, cassettes, clothing and jewellery goes on sale nationwide.

Scores of arrests have already been made for trademark offences, and raids will be intensified on market stalls, car boot sales, fly-pitches and football grounds during the remaining 11 days to Christmas. Some illegal traders have been breaking into empty High Street shops, occupying them as "trading squats" and selling counterfeit products.

Mike Wadley, secretary of the quality standards committee of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration (Itsa), said: "It's a nationwide problem, particularly prevalent at Christmas ... an enormous alternative economy."

Anthea Worsdall, secretary of the Anti-Counterfeiting Group, an association representing trademark owners, said: "This is a particularly difficult time for brand owners because counterfeiters flood the market with sub-standard and sometimes nasty products, and people buying cheap Christmas presents don't

know what they've got until they've brought them home."

Amid demands for tougher controls against brand-name piracy, the Home Office and the Office of Fair Trading have said they will review respectively the results of two surveys being undertaken by the Anti-Counterfeiting Group, and Itsa.

Itsa has set up a body of regional co-ordinators to target pirates while the Anti-Counterfeiting Group is canvassing its 110 members, including multi-national firms, foreign companies and trademark agents, to define the magnitude of the problem.

In the unemployment blackspot of Liverpool, trading standards officers and police have seized fake goods worth £150,000 from markets and illegal street traders, making 18 arrests last week.

Peter Mawdsley, Liverpool's chief trading standards officer, said: "Counterfeiting is at its highest level for ten years, with recession-hit consumers being lured by cheaper prices, then exploited by fake and shoddy goods. The fakers are contributing nothing to the local economy and their activities are undermining legitimate jobs."

Eileen Devaney, chair of consumer protection in Liverpool, said: "The fakers are parasites on local consumers and legitimate traders alike."

Fake goods seized in Liverpool include 308 bottles of Chanel and Obsession perfume selling for £10 instead of around £25; 2,000 designer-label T-shirts and sweatshirts; 350 video tapes of classic Walt Disney cartoon films and 8,000 pop music tapes which suffered from background "ringing" because of high-speed recording. Some cassettes were blank or had tracks missing.

Videos and music tapes are mostly counterfeited in Britain, but many garments are mass-produced in the Third World and legitimately exported to Britain, where they are illegally embroidered with brand names.

The Christmas counterfeit bonanza is part of an estimated £1 billion a year industry which also includes pharmaceuticals, motor spares, electrical products and computer software. According to the International Chamber of Commerce, the under-the-counter economy accounts for up to 8 per cent of world trade and 100,000 jobs in Britain.

In the run-up to Christmas the Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau, a division of the ICC, has uncovered £10,000 worth of sparkling wine masquerading as a top-brand champagne in Sheffield. A spokesman said: "Some of it was being sold by taxi-drivers to Indian restaurants. The label looked good and after a 'curry' nobody could tell the difference."

UK leads rises in European job losses

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT in Britain has been rising at least twice as quickly as in any other EC country, according to a new computer analysis of joblessness across the Community, carried out by *The Times*.

The results indicate the importance, to the UK in particular, of the package for economic growth and tackling unemployment agreed at the EC summit at Edinburgh at the weekend.

The jobs picture in Britain is expected to worsen this week. First, new figures from the government to be published on Thursday will show that seasonally adjusted unemployment rose in November by an estimated 30,000 or more. It was the thirty-first consecutive month of rising joblessness and the figures do not include the large-scale job losses recently announced at the Post Office and elsewhere.

Second, companies are expected to continue the stream of redundancy announcements that have carried on unabated since September. Among the largest companies likely to add to the list is Ford, whose American parent is set to announce on Wednesday widespread restructuring of its European operations. Some 3,000 jobs are expected to go in the company's British plants, with as many again in factories throughout the rest of Europe.

Job losses such as these have pushed up unemployment across Europe, but an analysis by *The Times* of unemployment data held on UK government computers shows that since the number out of work in Britain started to rise again in early 1990, unemployment has risen 74 per cent, at least twice as quickly as any other EC country.

The analysis, based on the most recent figures available for each EC state, shows that the nearest country to Britain was Belgium, with a 37 per cent rise in unemployment. Luxembourg followed with an increase over the period of 33 per cent, and then Ireland at 30 per cent.

At the start of the period, the number out of work ranked the UK fifth in the EC joblessness league. Now its position is second, marginally behind France. The UK now accounts for a fifth of all EC unemployment.

Watchdog savages rip-off plumbers. Dyno-Rod alerts the public.

On 7th December, the BBC's 'Watchdog' programme exposed the scandalous methods used by rogue plumbers who charge whatever they please for clearing blocked sinks, toilets and drains.

The householder is an unsuspecting victim.

We welcome the BBC's investigation.

But we would like you to know that there are still a number of drain cleaning companies you can rely on to give you a professional service, at an honest price.

To avoid the rip-off, use a company whose name you recognise and trust.

Always insist on a quote before work starts, and never pay more than that price.

Our aim is to continually ensure that Dyno-Rod's customers get the best service at the best price.

For example, we give a three-month workmanship guarantee.

Furthermore, our prices for domestic drain cleaning during normal hours Monday to Friday start from as little as £29.95 and are never more than £59.95. (Outside London and the Home Counties, our maximum is just £49.95.)

And there's no call-out charge, ever.

Come hell or high water, that's the Dyno-Rod promise to all householders.

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The way it isn't



Archbishop Carey is slightly scary. He hopes to jazz up the religious scene By playing Kumbaya on the tambourine.

Sir John Harvey-Jones Seldom phones. He just pops round the door Barking: "You're all going to be poor!"

Michael Caine Lives life in the fast lane. He says: "I've got a date With the Queen, my best mate."

Dennis Potter Writes more than he utters. Call me mean. But I've had enough of old men with skin-conditions singing popular songs to busy nurses juxtaposed with flashbacks to childhood in the Forest of Dean.

Changes may determine second referendum

Community forced to be more flexible

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN EDINBURGH AND CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

THE ten-page formula to exempt Denmark from some of the central sections of the Maastricht treaty is one of the most ambitious exercises in word-bending attempted by the European Community in its long history of ingenious compromises between 12 states.

If the package agreed in Edinburgh by the Community's leaders stays intact in the rough political weather which can be expected in Denmark over the next few months, the Danish voters who rejected Maastricht last June will effect two changes in the EC. The scale of the opt-outs which the Danes have forced from other prime ministers, who had to grit their teeth and admit that they had no other choice, takes the Community away from monolithic, uniform development and towards something more flexible.

Last night two key Danish opposition parties unanimously approved the package. The parliamentary groups of

the Socialist Democratic party, Denmark's biggest political grouping, and the centrist Radical Liberals agreed to accept the opt-out deal secured at the EC summit by Poul Schluter, the Danish prime minister, ensuring a clear majority in parliament for the package. Doubt still hung over the final stance of the leftist Socialist People's party, which held a protracted and acrimonious debate on whether to accept the deal. The Danish document adopted at Edinburgh strengthens a trend towards a Community with a core of common rights and responsibilities but with some common policies shared only by smaller groups. EC governments will not decide whether they want to create a joint defence policy for another three or four years: if they head in that direction, they will almost certainly have to do so

without Denmark. On the day before the Maastricht referendum last summer, a popular television chat show host asked a Danish mother why she was going to vote "no". She replied: "I don't want my sons to go south to fight for the Germans." Mr Schluter is said to have remarked that this exchange cost his "yes" campaign 100,000 votes.

The second Danish effect is the urgent attention which the Community's top people have been forced to give to the devolution of Brussels powers under the doctrine of "subsidiarity" and to shedding a little light on the EC's arcane and private rituals of decision-making. The "openness" agreed at Edinburgh is limited but does entrench the precedent that the public can see and hear ministers occasionally debate EC law.

Peter Riddell and
Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13



Future perfect: Poul Schluter, the Danish prime minister, expressing his optimism for a successful outcome to journalists before the summit ended

Pressure grows on Labour leader over Maastricht

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith faces increasing pressure from Labour's pro-European wing not to vote against the Maastricht ratification bill in the Commons, in the wake of the European Community summit.

Although Labour strategists are loath to reveal tactics in advance, party sources admitted yesterday that the Labour leader appeared more likely to ask his MPs to abstain, rather than vote against the bill at third reading. Many opposition MPs are also less willing to tolerate the Euro-sceptics' "time-wasting" tactics.

As the Labour leadership digested details of John Major's deal at Edinburgh, party sources made clear that the bill remained flawed as it excluded the social chapter. John Cunningham, shadow foreign secretary, yesterday spoke of Britain's "failures" at the summit while welcoming the agreement on Danish demands. "Clearly the EC members recognised the fundamental need to keep the Community together," he said. "That progress has, however, been at the cost of increased contributions by Britain to the Community budget."

A senior Labour figure privately confirmed that the Edinburgh deal, particularly the Danish concessions, had placed the party in "something of a quandary". The agreement makes it harder for Labour to delay ratification while, at the same time, the Labour leader parades the party's European credentials.

One shadow cabinet member predicted yesterday: "Pro-Europeans on both sides will now come out more into the open and there will be a greater degree of impatience with the tactics of Tory sceptics."

Giles Radice, a senior Labour backbencher and Euro-enthusiast, said the deal removed "most of the excuses" for voting against the Maastricht bill. "We are not prepared to allow time-wasters to hold up the bill," he said. "There is even less purpose in holding it up now that the Danish question is solved, as far as it can be, and we cannot hide behind the Danes."

Pro-European members of the shadow cabinet, led by Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, are planning to "come out fighting" in the months ahead to show up the Tories.

half-hearted stance to EC economic, employment and social policies.

Conservative MPs remained divided over the Maastricht bill after the Edinburgh deal. Euro-sceptics repeated their commitment to fight the legislation every inch of the way and they will demand that concessions made to the Danes are also granted to Britain. But Tory Euro-enthusiasts argued that the deal puts pressure on MPs to ratify the treaty.

Teresa Gorman, MP for Billericay, said that Britain had been held to ransom by Spain. She warned other MPs against euphoria at the outcome of the summit. The EC

budget deal was giving money to the poorer countries which the richer ones could "ill afford" in the present climate.

Hugh Dykes, chairman of the European Movement, urged MPs to press ahead with ratification. "Surely the Commons now needs to finish the committee stage of the bill quickly. If we wait all night for three or four nights we could wrap up the committee stage by mid-February," he said. Fellow Tory MP John Birt commented: "Edinburgh has united Europe in its salute to John Major's negotiating skills. Now Euro-sceptics should salute him, too, and back the Maastricht bill."

Sir Teddy Taylor remained committed to fighting for a referendum on Maastricht. "People in Britain are fed up with what's happening in the EC. They want to be told what the issues are, and they want to decide. That's democracy," he told the LWT News Weekend programme.



Smith: likely to ask MPs to abstain

Bonn takes heart from outcome

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

GERMAN politicians have reacted with determined optimism to the results of the Edinburgh summit. Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, declared yesterday that "in Edinburgh the European idea and the political responsibility of the twelve achieved a success".

Deep scepticism remains in many quarters as to whether Maastricht in its present form has a future, but this is overshadowed by relief that the process is still on the rails at all.

The German government is naturally especially anxious to claim a success. According to Herr Kinkel: "Edinburgh will perhaps stand in future as a symbol that the European Community of the twelve are up to their responsibility as the stable core of Europe, and have begun systematically to extend that area of stability - including towards Central and Eastern Europe."

The agreement to start talks at the beginning of next year on bringing in Austria and the Scandinavian countries is one success being emphasised by German diplomats, although French objections had already been overcome at the Mitterrand-Kohl summit in Bonn.

Concerning the EC budget and the cohesion package for the poorer countries, Theo Waigel, the finance minister, pointed out that this is the first time the EC has been able to agree on a seven-year financial plan. The government is emphasising that some of this will flow back to Germany in the form of aid for the former east German Länder, which Bonn has included in the list of Europe's underdeveloped areas. Public feeling against German aid to the rest of Europe is growing, but Herr Waigel pointed out that Germany still gets back more than half of what it pays to the EC.

Euro car plates plan dropped

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HARMONISED European car number plates and the regulation of gambling are among proposals dropped by EC leaders as part of the summit deal to cut interference in national life.

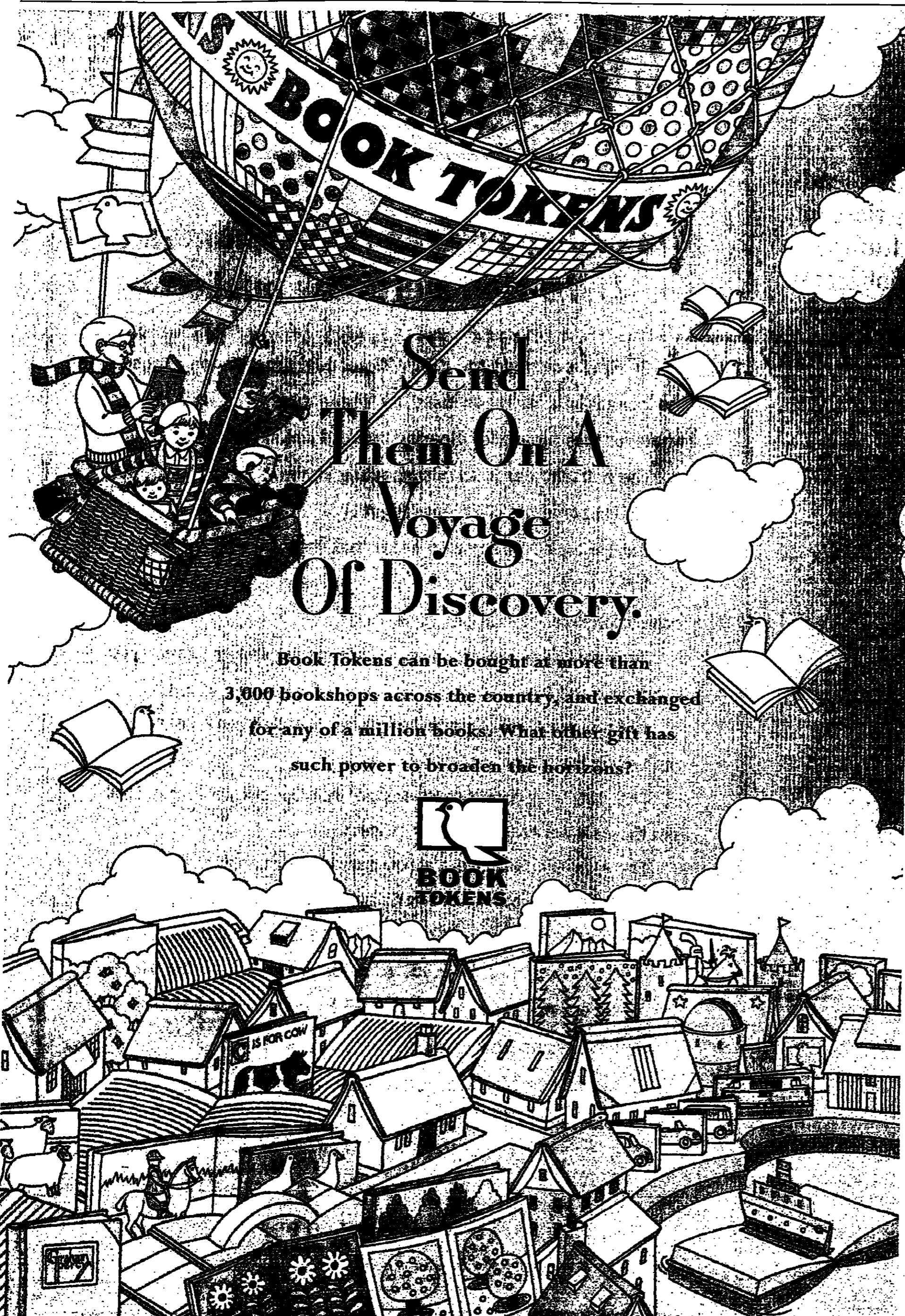
The summit agreement is designed to meet the growing public demand for more openness about the way the European Community works and for less intrusion by the Brussels bureaucrats.

The deal means the repeal of some EC laws and amendments to others and raises the prospect of public ministerial debate on foreign affairs, finance, agriculture and the environment whenever the EC is considering a "major initiative of public interest". An annex to the summit declaration on "subsidiarity"

says that the Commission concluded that some of its proposals had no extra benefit over national decision-making on the same issues.

Three proposals for directives have already been withdrawn - on food labelling and on radio frequencies involving aircraft and road transport. The Commission is considering withdrawing a dozen more proposals, including legislation on zoo animals, issues concerning value-added tax and indirect tax and on the import of cars.

During next year it will also be weeding out unnecessary EC interference on various directives, many involving standards for foodstuffs: preserves, natural mineral waters, honey, coffee extracts and fruit juices. It will simplify EC laws on the environment, particularly on air and water, and drop directives introducing extra strict standards for the protection of pigs, calves and laying hens. This last only because all member states have acceded to the European animal protection convention.



Indonesia quake toll rises to 1,200 as waves engulf island

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RESCUERS dug through devastated villages searching for survivors and victims yesterday as the death toll from the earthquake that struck eastern Indonesia reached 1,232.

Hundreds more were injured. Many people drowned or were swept away when large waves triggered by the tremor inundated coastal areas on the island of Flores. Many of the 70,000 residents of Maumere, 19 miles from the epicentre in the sea, had fled into the fields after the earthquake hit the town, located on a bay, on Saturday.

Most people remained away from their homes to avoid falling beams and spent Saturday night outside in open areas without tents in a tropical rainstorm. The earthquake destroyed government buildings, schools, mosques, churches and shops in Maumere and Lantika on the eastern part of the island. Most of the buildings on the island are single-storey structures made of wood and brick.

The island is a poor, mountainous area which exports copra, and grows maize and rice.

It was one of the worst earthquakes of the century, and last night officials appealed for help to fight disease and cold threatening survivors. Hendrikus Fernandez, the governor of East Nusa Tenggara province, said two ships with emergency supplies had been sent to Flores from Kupang on the neighbouring island of Timor.

Parts of Flores were devastated by the earthquake which measured 6.8 on the Richter scale, Mr Fernandez said. He said that Maumere bore the brunt of its fury. About 1,000 of the dead were in Maumere and survivors needed medicine to fight gastro-enteritis and respiratory diseases, and tents to protect them from the rains. He said that the rainy season made conditions more difficult. "We fear the death toll will go higher," a spokesman for the East Nusa Tenggara government said.

Officials said 1,226 bodies have been recovered.

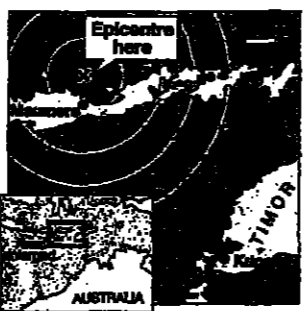
Hendrik Nai, a spokesman for the rescue team, said about 80 per cent of the buildings in Maumere were destroyed. Whole villages in coastal areas were wiped out by the seismic waves, he said. The waves, called *tsunami*, were as high as 80 ft and swept as far as 1,000 feet inland, he said.

Mr Nai said that bad communications were hampering the task of gathering information from some parts of the island, which is 1,000 miles east of Jakarta, the capital. Aftershocks which occurred about every five minutes hampered rescue work, he said.

Herman Gadidjou, a senior aide to the governor, said that many fishermen and others went missing after the tidal waves hit the coast. "I think this is a national disaster and we are appealing for help from Jakarta," Mr Gadidjou said. He said medicines and doctors were needed urgently.

Flores is a tourist attraction famed for its coral and colourful religious festivals. It was not immediately known if any foreigners were among the victims.

Indonesia is along the Pacific Ocean's volcanic "rim of fire" and is hit by many strong tremors every year. A series of tremors hit eastern parts last year, killing at least 22 people and causing extensive damage to property. The last big earthquake to strike the country was also in the east, in Irian Jaya in 1989. That earthquake, which measured 5.6 on the Richter scale, triggered landslides that killed 97



people. According to a meteorological official, the earthquake was the twelfth powerful earthquake to rock East Nusa Tenggara province since 1896.

The 20th century's worst earthquake devastated Tangshan in China on July 28, 1976. A 7.8 tremor lasting 23 seconds destroyed 90 per cent of the buildings in the city centre and destroyed hundreds of square miles beyond. At least 250,000 were killed.

Nearly 23,000 died in an earthquake and mudslides in Guatemala City on February 4, 1976. The earthquake measured 7.5 and left a 200-mile-long fissure eight feet wide and ten feet deep. An earthquake measuring 5.5 destroyed villages over 100 square miles in the Karakoram mountains in Pakistan on December 28, 1974, killing 5,200 and injuring more than 16,000.

About 70,000 were killed and 600,000 made homeless in Yungay, Peru, on May 31, 1970, by an earthquake and ensuing avalanche that buried the resort city. On September 1, 1923, an earthquake struck Tokyo and Yokohama followed by flooding. At least 300,000 were killed. On October 20, 1991, an earthquake killed 1,600 and injured at least 2,000 in Uttaranchal, India.

A tremor killed at least 2,000 and injured 3,500 people on July 16 1990 in Baguio, Philippines. An estimated 148,000 were displaced. On June 21, 1990, Iran's worst recorded earthquake devastated the Caspian regions of Gilan and Zanjan, killing 50,000 and injuring 100,000. (Reuters)



Water way: vehicles trying to negotiate streets in Winthrop, Massachusetts, after the most savage winter storms in 40 years hit the eastern seaboard of America, causing widespread flooding. At least 15 deaths have been blamed on the storms

Yeltsin wins time in deal to freeze balance of power

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin emerged battered but temporarily bolstered from a weekend of frenetic deal-making, aimed at calming Russia's political and constitutional crisis with an agreement that freezes the balance of power between president and parliament.

Mr Yeltsin and Russian Khasbulatov, the conservative chairman of the Congress of People's Deputies, agreed a nine-point compromise package on Saturday providing for an April referendum to decide the rudiments of a new constitution. The step temporarily resolves the constitutional uncertainty that has dogged Mr Yeltsin's reform programme this year.

Although the text will be drafted by the standing parliament, drawn largely from conservatives in Congress, it must be approved by both the president and the constitutional court before it is put before the people. If they fail to agree, there will be a referendum on competing proposals to decide the respective powers of president and parliament.

Thousands of pro-reformists gathered at a rally in Gorky Park to hail the compromise as a victory. Speakers at the rally said they would seek support in the referendum for a strong executive presidency and the confirmation of key reform principles, including the right to private ownership of land.

The agreement also allows Mr Yeltsin to renominate Yegor Gaidar for prime minister today alongside other candidates nominated by parliament. It also states that parliament will not consider

any laws that change the balance of power between the legislature and the executive before the referendum.

In return, Mr Yeltsin dropped his call for a referendum on permanently dissolving Congress and his appeal to the people to choose between his leadership and the power of the legislature was expunged from the record. However, he refused to withdraw the harsh remarks he made about Congress representing vulgarity, reaction and "the sick ambitions of failed politicians".

Mr Khasbulatov disingenuously claimed that he had been guided by "what suits our country, our society, our people" in agreeing to the deal. In fact, Mr Khasbulatov is infallibly guided by what suits himself.

The emergence of any compromise at all is remarkable given Mr Yeltsin's limited room for manoeuvre. He has managed to protect his personal powers and the reform programme until April when he hopes that the economic conditions in the country will have improved.

Quite why Mr Khasbulatov should have called off his hounds when the president seemed to be on the run is unexplained. The key may lie in the security council meeting which Mr Yeltsin convened before the talks began. Two of the council members, Yuri Skokov, the chairman, and Pavel Grachev, the defence minister, were on Mr Yeltsin's negotiating team, suggesting that he has assured himself of the support of the military and the interior ministry troops in the time to come Mr Khasbulatov into submission.

On the minus side, the president was forced to sacrifice once and for all Gennadiy Burbulis, his closest aide and political associate from his days as first secretary in Yelastarburg, in order to achieve the compromise. The Congress also keeps the right of veto on appointments to four key ministries — a significant factor in future power struggles — which it won last week, making it unlikely that Andrei Kozhev, the liberal foreign minister, will survive in office.



Yeltsin: dropped call to dissolve Congress

Britain urged to enforce Bosnia ban

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is to come under pressure this week from America and France to support military action against the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina by enforcing the "no-fly" zone with jet fighters authorised to shoot down Serbian helicopters and aircraft.

A decision to use force to stop military flights by the Serbs will be the first step towards a possible escalation in the West's military response to continued Serbian aggression in Bosnia. It will also drag America more directly into the war, as enforcement of the air exclusion zone will depend on American carrier-based fighters.

Commanders of the Serbian, Muslim and Croatian forces in Bosnia signed yet another ceasefire agreement yesterday at a meeting in Sarajevo with Major General Philippe Morillon, the French commander of the United Nations protection forces. They also agreed in principle to open three corridors for the safe passage of civilians out of the Bosnian capital.

In Brussels last week Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, made it clear to his Nato counterparts that he was against enforcement of the "no-fly" zone because of the potential danger to UN troops escorting humanitarian relief convoys. His caution is likely to be overwhelmed by the rising clamour for tougher action.

This will be a crucial week in the present discussions on Bosnia, with three high-level meetings to be held in Stockholm, Geneva and Brussels. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who will be attending all three meetings, appears ready to agree a firmer line against the Serbs.

If a tougher mandate is approved by the UN Security Council, the American aircraft carrier, USS John F. Kennedy, currently in the eastern Mediterranean and equipped with FA-18s and F-14s is likely to be called on to mount combat air patrols over Bosnia. Britain could be asked to contribute aircraft to enforce the "no-fly" zone. RAF Tornados or Jaguars could be based in southern Italy for such an operation.

Clinton's Arkansas friend given key White House job

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton, the American president-elect, has turned to a childhood friend who has been involved in the Democratic party at state level but is not a political animal, to fill the key post of White House chief of staff.

In appointing Thomas "Mac" McLarty, a millionaire and chairman of an Arkansas natural gas conglomerate, as chief of staff, a post that in the past has been filled by politically ambitious figures or ideological warriors, Mr Clinton has indicated his intention that the White House will not be the preserve of any one faction. He clearly hopes that Mr McLarty will act as an almost apolitical referee who can reconcile competing factions within the administration and fit in with his own exhaustively consultative mode of decision-making.

Announcing the appointment on Saturday in Little Rock, Mr Clinton said he wanted an "honest broker" as chief of staff who would make sure he was kept fully informed. Clinton staff described Mr McLarty, who went to the same kindergarten as the president-elect in Hope, Arkansas, as a "man with no agenda but Bill's agenda". When reporters asked Mr McLarty, 46, what views he held on balancing the needs of gas extraction with environmental concerns, he replied that policy-making was no concern of a chief of staff.

The appointment of Mr McLarty, a Washington insider, was in marked contrast to the selection on Saturday of Ron Brown, the chairman of the Democrat National Committee, as commerce secretary. Mr Brown, a Washington insider *par excellence*, has been charged with turning the commerce department, normally a second-tier ministry, into "a powerhouse" promoting American business. In appointing Mr Brown, the first black to be named to the cabinet, the president-elect paid off a political debt — the Democrat chairman played a key role in Mr Clinton's campaign — and also went some way in delivering on his pledge to have a racially diverse cabinet.

Mr Brown's past as a lawyer-lobbyist in a Washington law firm could prove embarrassing when the Senate comes to confirm his appointment. Jean-Claude "Baby

By choosing a friend rather than a political insider, Clinton is moulding the administration in his own image.

Doc" Duvall, the ousted dictator of Haiti, was one of his clients. He has also acted for Japanese electronic firms.

Born in Harlem, Mr Brown has liberal roots: he has strong links with Senator Edward Kennedy and Mario Cuomo, the governor of New York and a *bête noire* for conservatives, and acted as the Rev Jesse Jackson's campaign manager during the civil rights leader's 1988 presidential bid. But Mr Brown did not follow the path traditionally taken by aspiring black politicians. He was not prominent in the civil rights movement and has followed a more conventional route up the greasy pole, serving at one time as the chief counsel to the Senate judiciary committee.

In 1989 Mr Brown told *The Washington Post*: "America happens to be a majority white country and if you are going to play a significant role as a political leader in the broad sense, obviously you've got to attract votes, support, confidence and the esteem of the majority population."

Announcing Mr McLarty's appointment, the president-elect was close to tears and the two men hugged. They were inseparable childhood friends in Hope, where Mr McLarty's father ran the local Ford dealership and Mr Clinton's



Childhood chums: Clinton hugs Thomas McLarty, an apolitical figure named chief of staff

step-father ran the less profitable Buick dealership. Later, they were budding politicians together. Mr McLarty was elected at the age of 23 to the state congress and was chairman for a time of the Democratic party in Arkansas.

Michael Beschloss, a historian, said the president-elect's appointment of a childhood friend as chief of staff suggested "that this person will have a great deal of power, because of his unique relationship with Clinton".

Mr McLarty brushed off suggestions that his lack of Washington experience would be a handicap. "I am not a Washington insider... But through my experience as a citizen, as a businessman, as a former state legislator, and as a former state party chairman, I know Washington well and I know how to make organisations work," he said.

Dee Dee Myers, Mr Clinton's press spokeswoman, said: "People in Washington will say he doesn't have enough experience to deal in the shark tank. But they're underestimating him. He's like a lot of these Arkansians: dumb like a fox."

Yesterday, as Clinton aides prepared for a two-day economic conference in Little Rock to be attended by more than 300 academics, businessmen and politicians, the president-elect's new economic team made clear that tax cuts for the middle class, a campaign pledge, would not be a top priority for the incoming administration. Clinton aides now say that cutting the huge federal budget deficit must come first.

De Klerk will push reforms

Johannesburg: President de Klerk of South Africa said yesterday that he was prepared to push ahead with his government's constitutional initiative if talks with other political groups do not advance (Ray Kennedy writes).

Reflecting on a year of tumult and disappointment, he said: "There is no turning back and there is a primary responsibility on the government to ensure that delays do not favour radical groups."

However, Mr de Klerk said he was hopeful that a constitutional settlement, economic recovery and a sharp reduction in violence were attainable next year.

Afghan polls are in doubt

Peshawar: The Afghan president's term of office expires tomorrow with doubt over who his successor will be and how he will be chosen. Four candidates, including the incumbent President Rabbani, are contesting the post.

A presidential spokesman said President Rabbani would only surrender power to a grand convocation of the Shura, or council, which is due to meet in Kabul today.

Talks blocked

Buenos Aires: Argentine officials claimed a "diplomatic victory" after talks over fishing in the South Atlantic ended in an impasse. Argentina rejected British attempts to regulate its fishing licences to protect the Falkland Islands' fishing industry.

Cocaine catch

Madrid: The second in command of the Civil Guard's anti-drug squad was arrested for allegedly using cocaine to pay off informants on drug shipments, according to *El Pais* newspaper. The unit's head was suspended as a precautionary measure. (AP)

Tribe attacked

Nairobi: Sudanese tribal raiders killed 89 Kenyan nomads, mostly women and children, at Kokoro in the remote northwest of Kenya before making off with their livestock. The raiders were armed with sophisticated firearms and other weapons, police said. (Reuters)

Lombardy League tops poll

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN VARESE

THE devolutionists of the Lombardy League are poised to prove themselves in office in northern Italy for the first time after apparent success in local elections.

Opinion polls suggested that the federalist movement would win at least 40 per cent of the vote in Varese, the capital of the province where Umberto Bossi, the league's leader, was born, and at the nearby town of Monza. Voting for 55 local governments and one provincial council began yesterday and finishes this afternoon.

Signor Bossi hopes the prosperous burghers of Va-

rese will give him as much as 45 per cent of the vote, enabling the league to form a municipal government on its own. The league has won resounding victories in the past in the cities of Brescia and Mantua but the mainstream parties refused to join a coalition, blocking them from power. Now league strategists hope for a chance to disprove their critics who claim that they lack high-calibre politicians.

Corriere della Sera called yesterday's vote "a day of fear" for the parties in the government of Giuliano Amato, the prime minister.

The Milan newspaper said the polls could destabilise the fragile Rome coalition of Socialists, Christian Democrats, Liberals and Social Democrats, who have lost credibility because of their involvement in corruption scandals in Varese province. 40 local politicians have been charged with taking bribes in return for issuing public works contracts.

League leaders deny that they are racist or want to break up Italy. But this month Gianfranco Miglio, the main league theorist, suggested that Sicily would do well to secede.

Indian violence dies down

Ayodhya mosque to be rebuilt

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian government announced yesterday that it will start building a new mosque in Ayodhya within 12 months to replace the one torn down by Hindu zealots eight days ago. Hindu extremists said last night that they will knock the new one down, too.

Sharad Pawar, the defence minister, told a press conference in Bombay that a Hindu temple would also be built. The exact site of the buildings had not yet been decided. He avoided answering questions about the fate of Hindu idols that have been placed in a new shrine on the site of the

demolished Babri mosque, supposedly the birthplace of the Hindu god, Ram.

To move them would incense Hindus to leave them further insult Muslims. One scheme believed to be under study is for a mosque and a temple to adjoin each other on the same site, so that both sides can be seen to win. The temple would be built around the idols without disturbing them.

Violence in the wake of the destruction of the mosque has largely ended, leaving 1,150 dead and perhaps 5,000 injured. The government is

summoning heads of diplomatic missions to briefings in Delhi to reassure them that the violent events of the past eight days have neither marked a lurch towards religious fundamentalism nor any worsening of Hindu-Muslim confrontation.

At least 500 people were arrested in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, where Ayodhya is situated, over the weekend in a crackdown on members of five sectarian organisations — three Hindu, two Muslim — banned by the government last week. Their offices were sealed.

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THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1992

OVERSEAS NEWS 9

US Marines braced for reprisals from Somali rebels

BY JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AMERICAN marines landed in the interior of Somalia for the first time yesterday while a United Nations food ship packed with grain docked in Mogadishu, the capital.

Marines in 12 helicopters flew to Badi Dogle airfield, about 100 miles west of the capital. Lieutenant Colonel Fred Peck said that the 230 marines had taken food supplies to Badi Dogle after reports that numerous Somalis had gathered there to hand in their weapons.

American helicopter gunships destroyed three armed Somali vehicles killing at least one gunman late on Saturday in the most serious clash between American forces and Somali irregulars. As US Marines braced themselves yesterday for possible reprisals and

extended their reach into the famine-stricken interior by securing the Badi Dogle airstrip, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, once again argued that American forces should remain until all rival Somali militias are disarmed, a risky operation that could take several months and involve American casualties.

Dr Boutros Ghali said that he plans to release a letter he sent to President Bush detailing the understanding he thought the UN and the Bush administration had reached on the American role. According to Dr Boutros Ghali, the commitment to disarm the militias was not included in the UN Security Council vote authorising the armed relief effort, because of a request by the Americans, but was agreed privately by the White House. Stopping short of accusing the Americans of going back on their word, the secretary-general appeared worried that the Bush administration is having second thoughts about its role.

Apparent American nervousness about being pulled in deeper may have been increased by the exchange of gunfire on Saturday between two marine helicopters and three "technicals", the armed Jeeps favoured by Somali gunmen. The Marine Corps helicopters, both AH1 Cobras, were fired on after they had stumbled across a fortified compound on the road to Badi Dogle containing several old Soviet T54 and American-made M48 tanks. Captain Paul Denning, a British officer on exchange with the US Marines, said that he saw one technical open up with bursts of automatic gunfire. "I was looking at a muzzle shooting at me," he said. The Cobras made short work of the three technicals after receiving orders to attack.

Aid workers greeted the American seizure of the airstrip with relief yesterday. More than 200 marines in 12 helicopters secured the strip, halfway between the capital and Baldo, one of the worst famine-stricken towns.

At Mogadishu port, the UN brought in its first relief ship since gunmen shelled a vessel that tried to dock last month. The Danish-registered *Sea Pearl* was carrying 3,000 tonnes of wheat given by the European Community. "Today is the first visible sign there is no more insecurity and we can start bringing in relief vessels regularly," Paul Mitchell, spokesman for the World Food Programme, said.

Politics and pomp win Miss World stakes

FROM MICHAEL HAMELYN IN SUN CITY BOPHUTHATSWANA

THERE were 80 losers in the Miss World competition here at the weekend, all young and lovely, but there were also a number of winners not all young and some not lovely. In addition, there were a number of political messages.

The ostensible winner was Miss Russia, Julia Kurat-chinka, 18, from Moscow, wants to use her prize money to help the world's children. She is an only child, with no steady boy friend and was studying to be a bank clerk until this week. Now she wants to travel. "The situation is not good in Russia, as you know," five years ago an official Russian entry would have been unthinkable. She alone, of all the Miss Worlds in the 42-year history of the competition, did not cry. "I was much too happy to cry."

Miss United Kingdom's mother, Ann Smith, 48, from Chester, cried when her daughter, Claire, challenged by Ivana Trump, a judge, to name her role model paid a tribute to her mother. Claire Smith did not cry either. She



Winning form: Miss Russia joining Sol Kerzner in a champagne toast after she was crowned Miss World

was robbed of the title, which in the media centre was reckoned to be hers, by one vote. The real winner though was Sol Kerzner, the millionaire

hotelier, for whom the pageant was the last event in a fortnight's celebration of the opening of his latest venture, the Palace of the Lost City at Sun City. Another big winner

was Lucas Mangope, the president of Bophuthatswana. The weekend's events and the focus of the international media on them has forced Bophuthatswana into the

international eye. However, Amy Kleinhaus, Miss South Africa, a Coloured, decided not to march with the South African flag in the opening parade.

Palestinian group holds Israeli policeman

FROM BEN LYNNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

MUSLIM fundamentalist gunmen kidnapped an Israeli paramilitary policeman near Tel Aviv yesterday, threatening to kill him unless Israel released the jailed leader of the Hamas movement.

An army spokesman confirmed that Master Sergeant Nissim Toledano, of the border police, was missing and that they suspected that he had been kidnapped.

The demand for the release of Shaikh Ahmed Yassin, founder of Hamas, a Palestinian group that opposes peace talks with Israel, was made in a letter delivered to the Red Cross in the West Bank town of Al-Birch. Yassin is serving a life sentence for planning the kidnapping and murder of two soldiers.

During a weekend of violence in the occupied territories, an Israeli soldier was killed and two were wounded in Hebron, when Palestinians raked an army Jeep with gunfire on Saturday. Hamas claimed responsibility. In clashes in the Gaza Strip, two Palestinians were killed and more than 100 injured.

Tourists in Egypt threatened

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

ISLAMIC extremists have issued their first warning to tourists in Cairo after a government crackdown in the capital in which more than 600 suspects have been arrested since last week.

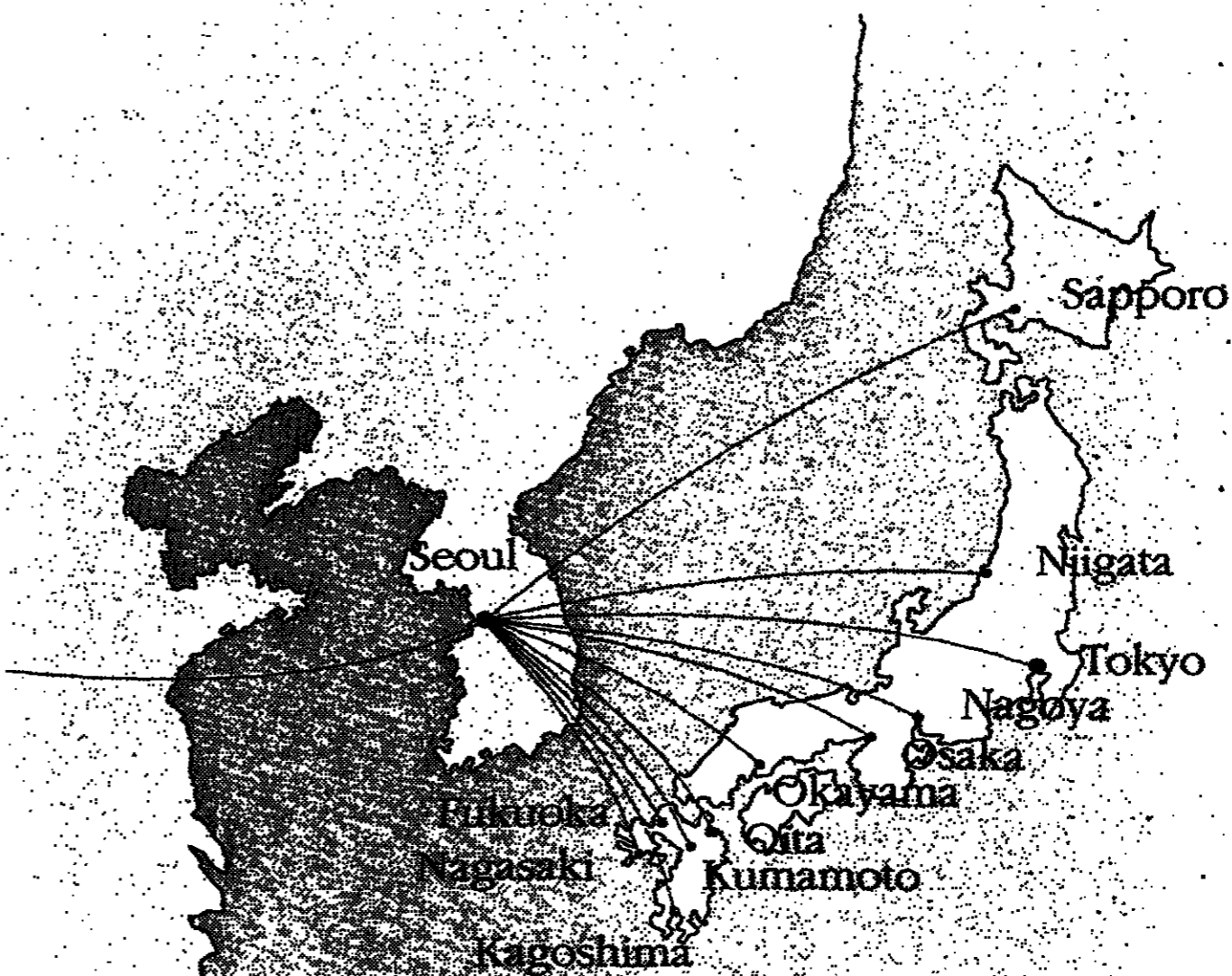
"We urge foreigners, Muslims and non-Muslims to be cautious because we will proceed in defending ourselves through all the available legitimate means," said Gama'a al-Islamiya, the group that warned tourists away from Upper Egypt before launching terrorist attacks in October in which one Briton died.

A spokesman for President Mubarak said that the campaign against tourism had been "the last straw which broke the camel's back" and had prompted the clampdown in which 14,000 troops and police have been sent into the Islamic stronghold of Irbab. "This phenomenon is being finished," the spokesman said. "Egypt, like other countries in the region, will not tolerate extremism and terrorism. It will crush them."

Since tourism, Egypt's main foreign currency earner, was targeted, bookings have fallen by 40 per cent and losses are put at \$1.5 billion (£960 million). Nile cruises are being guarded by helicopters.

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Linda Grant and Sharon Gless, aka Cagney, consider tough women on TV and why there aren't more of them.

Minor role for the majority



Strong stuff: Helen Mirren returns tomorrow in Prime Suspect 2

When *Cagney and Lacey* first appeared on American television in 1982, the two female cops were dismissed by that country's TV Guide as a pair of dykes. The series founder and Sharon Gless was brought in to replace an actress who had been described as "too butch" in the role of Christine Cagney. So then TV Guide accused Ms Gless of being a "bimbo".

"One critic said I was from the Copacabana School of Acting. He called me kittenish, and kittenish I'm not," Ms Gless says. "So I'd love to tell you the United States is way ahead of Britain when it comes to women's advancement. There seemed a whole lot of anger about this project — and always from men. I asked Tyne [Daley, who played Mary Beth Lacey] 'What's the problem with this show?' And her answer was, 'Fear'. A fear by men of two women working together. It made them think: 'I don't believe a woman could do this job.' But they can and they do."

It is ten years since the launch of *Cagney and Lacey*, the cop show which portrayed two feisty, working-class women with all the problems that come with middle years — menopause, a difficult marriage, the loneliness of the single woman, alcoholism, men who undervalue their female colleagues. If Alexis Carrington of *Dynasty* was the imaginary heroine of the Trump years, every woman's fantasy of agelessness, designer clothes, penthouses and a young stud in bed, *Cagney and Lacey* was the ironic counterpart to all that glitz.

"In retrospect I'm very proud of Christine Cagney. I've had the opportunity to play probably the most fascinating woman portrayed in television," Ms Gless says in her dressing room at the Criterion Theatre, in London's West End, where she has just opened as Annie Wilkes, the psychotic nurse in a stage version of *Misery*.

Tomorrow the television series *Prime Suspect 2* begins on ITV (9pm). As in the Bafta-winning first series it stars Helen Mirren as Detective Chief Inspector Jane Tennison, struggling to prove herself in a male-dominated workplace. The originator of the series, Lynda La Plante, is one of the few writers working in British television prepared to create strong roles for

women. Since the 1950s, the British police series has been almost as single-sex as the Garrick Club. *Dixon of Dock Green*, *Z Cars* and *Softly, Softly*, *The Sweeney*, *Inspector Morse*, *Tuggart*, *A Touch of Frost* — all portrayed women as only fit to comfort the bereaved, as if female PCs were no more than social workers in uniform.

Prime Suspect stunned audiences, not only because it showed a woman doing what had been thought of as a man's job, but with all the attendant personal difficulties that can accompany career success for women. Ms La Plante's triumph was to portray DCI Tennison's negotiation of her ambition and vulnerability — a juggling act that for most professional women is an everyday dilemma. But if *Prime Suspect* provided a television role model, it was only because series such as *Juliet Bravo* and *Cagney and Lacey* had gone before.

Ms Daly has argued that the first American television programme to show women in strong active roles was *Charlie's Angels*.

trayed, well into middle-age, the new, enfranchised woman created by the first world war and its aftermath. But since the 1960s, cinema and television has been fixated on the young girl. *Cagney and Lacey* was one of the first sightings of older working women on television.

But if Ms Gless seems to have marked out this territory for herself, she is still as insecure as any other member of her profession: "They are writing fewer roles for women my age," she says. "The Glenn Close and Jessica Lange are going to television now because there are no parts for them. If the big movie stars are available, the television industry is obviously going to take them."

Few women are in positions of power in the entertainment business: "We have no female executives in the networks — the presidents and vice-presidents are all men. There are no women who are in decision-making positions, and until that changes the shows are not going to change."

Even *Cagney and Lacey* and Ms Gless's latest series, *The Trials of Rosie O'Neill*, about a recently divorced lawyer, were created by a man — Mr Rosenzweig, who is best known for his championing of "minorities" — blacks, Hispanics and



Real women doing a real job: (left) Tyne Daly as Mary Beth Lacey and Sharon Gless as Christine Cagney

ironically, women (who are not, of course, a minority).

But the recent election as president of Bill Clinton may, she believes, shake up the industry: "I think Bill and Hillary Clinton are going to be wonderful for our country," Ms Gless says. "She's going to be the first First Lady who works — and that's what most women in our country do today. Families in America need two incomes."

When David Bailey took Helen Mirren's photographs for *Prime Suspect*, he hated the hardness of her look, the short hair, the absence of make-up. "He loves women with lots of hair — men find it very sexual," Ms Mirren has said. Male expectations about women's attractiveness on screen intensify the difficulties of actresses prepared to take on realistic roles.

To play Annie Wilkes, for example, Ms Gless had to gain 30 pounds and dye her hair light brown. "When I finish playing Annie what am I going to do with this body?" she says. "I want to portray real women who think and feel, and not all women are thin. I want to play women who are fat. But do I have to lose the weight to work again? Yes, I probably do."

"There's a part of me that says, 'It works for Kathy Bates' [who won an Oscar for the role Ms Gless plays in

Misery], but I've been told even she's a size ten now."

Her marriage, at the age of 48, is her first. Coming from a long line of divorcees, she had few images of a happy romantic partnership. She never planned to marry and became "almost arrogant" about the success of her single status, which she found hard to relinquish. She would like her next project to be a romantic comedy about an older woman looking for a man who thinks she's beautiful because of what she is inside.

"I would do it if I could find someone to write it," she says. "The truth is women my age are not unattractive. Why the hell do we want to look like a 20-year-old? It isn't bad to look like a 20-year-old but there's nothing going on between the ears."

"I want to perform parts that let women know how beautiful they are at 45, 50. Barney thinks that women my age are very sexy. And I really want to believe that. I think I'm just getting it right. Especially when I think of all that faking I did in my early years."

"I always used to think how pathetic it was that older women could be with younger men, but I understand now how younger men find older women very sexy — and I can see how that could be a win-win situation."

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Go forty, and multiply

Mothers are getting older. Rather rapidly, in my case (did I re-book the reindeer suit? Will the angel Gabriel's trumpet enrage the live sheep in the nativity play?), but never mind that. This is a matter of demographics.

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys reveals that the proportion of women having first babies in their late thirties has risen by 76 per cent in ten years. It is still, mind you, only 5.8 per thousand — nothing to provoke the Motherhood Police into a baton-charge — but the trend is for later babies. "Career women", we hear, are putting their wombs into set-aside until well stricken in years like Elisabeth the wife of Zacharias (sorry, nativity play again). Then they bring forth late blossoms and — Luke 1, 45-58 — call themselves blessed, and neighbours rejoice.

Well, not all the neighbours. Some prefer to pursue their lips. Among them, according to the *Daily Mail*, is Dr Adrian Rogers of the Conservative Christian Fellowship, who finds little to rejoice about in age-stricken mothers.

"Women", he said, "seem to have fallen victim to the propaganda that they have not fulfilled themselves unless they are out in the big world forging a career... women who have children in their late thirties and forties are going to find that they are saddled with great financial burdens when they would normally have spare cash and time to enjoy it."

Goodness, he is so right! Elisabeth the wife of Zacharias was clearly a mug. Fancy crying out that Yea, the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her (Luke 1, 58)! Daft woman. She clearly did not realise that young John the Baptist would be a serious financial burden just when she could have been spending her spare cash on a new fitted kitchen. Did no prototype Dr Rogers tell her that the optimum age for childbirth is 25 to 26?

Mind you, that is a pretty tricky window to hit. One minute you're 25 and ready to go, then you get it wrong in the first month, forget the next ovulation because some fool trod on the fertility thermometer, and spend six weeks hunting for your Miriam Stoppard Pop-up Conception Calendar.

You then snuff your next three chances owing to a headache, a bout of gippy tummy and the Frankfurt Book Fair, and before you know it you're 26 and past your peak. Pathetic woman! Barren fig tree! Euthanasia would be kinder, really.

This is assuming that the father of your child is on station in the first place. Should you fail to annex a suitable chap before you turn 30 (or indeed 40), Conservative Christian eye-



LIBBY PURVES

brows will rise. If you have trouble conceiving, you can either deliver a running commentary on your clinic visits until friends scatter, or keep quiet and let them think you have secretly memorised Lady Macbeth's "Unsex me here!" speech and settled for the fast lane. I spent eight months in this state when I worked on the *Today* radio programme dawn shift. Whenever I took my temperature it was 4am and I appeared to be clinically dead. The mercury never flickered. During this period a profile-writer said, "A dedicated BBC woman, she has never had children". It was 31.

It will not do. Leaving aside recent barmy medical experiments with elderly women and donor eggs, normal late babies are part of the rich variation of human life. Of course there are drawbacks in having a first child at 40 (your bedtimes converge so fast, but there are advantages too. Like patience, and a way with uppity doctors, and that philosophical

turn of mind that only comes from 20 years of swings and roundabouts at work. For childbirth, no age is ideal and no age disastrous.

Disaster starts, whether you are 17 or 40, precisely at the moment when your prodigious undermind you with an image of the "ideal family". There is no such thing. I have researched this at several hundred kitchen tables and offer you two happy families to try for size: one mothered by Victoria Gillick (ten children, high moral tone, high spirits) another by Avital Sharansky, the wife of the imprisoned dissident, who won him back just in time to bear his child and call herself blessed.

And do you know what? even know some kind brave, loved and loving spirits who have — gasp! — no children at all! So come on, Conservative Christian Fellows. Hang loose. Grit at a baby today, even if its mother looks wrong to you. Life is crooked and asymmetrical and spoils your pretty patterns, but it is nearly Christmas. So, in the words of W.H. Auden (who wasted a few fertile years himself) just love your crooked neighbour, with all your crooked heart.

Bustiers, basques and big money

Why Anne Summers' women's underwear and "novelties" are recession-proof

The weeks before Christmas are the peak shopping time for lingerie and naughty knick-knacks. Tonight around Britain there will probably be some seven hundred and fifty Anne Summers parties, with more in The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Jersey and Ireland. Famous throughout the 1960s

and '70s for its sex shops and naughty underwear, the company has spruced up its act, taken some research soundings and turned itself into the most successful party plan operation in the country. Sales

of underwear and what are coyly termed "novelties" through privately held parties have increased by 43 per cent this year alone, and now account for 94 per cent of the organisation's business. With an expected turnover this year of £50 million, the Anne Summers party plan is one of the recession's big success stories.

The Anne Summers party catalogue was set up ten years ago, offering women what they wouldn't be seen dead walking into a shop to buy. Nylon glamour lingerie, and naughty accessories very quickly established a distinctive Anne Summers niche in the market. Over the last few years, the lingerie range has been expanded to include a wider choice of fabrics and styles, and to include some pastel alternatives to the original red and black.

Jacqueline Gold, the managing director of the party plan operation, puts its recent growth down to this broadening of the range, coupled with the fact that women themselves are increasingly confident about their sexuality. "Women are becoming more adventurous," and the lingerie

they choose reflects that independence.

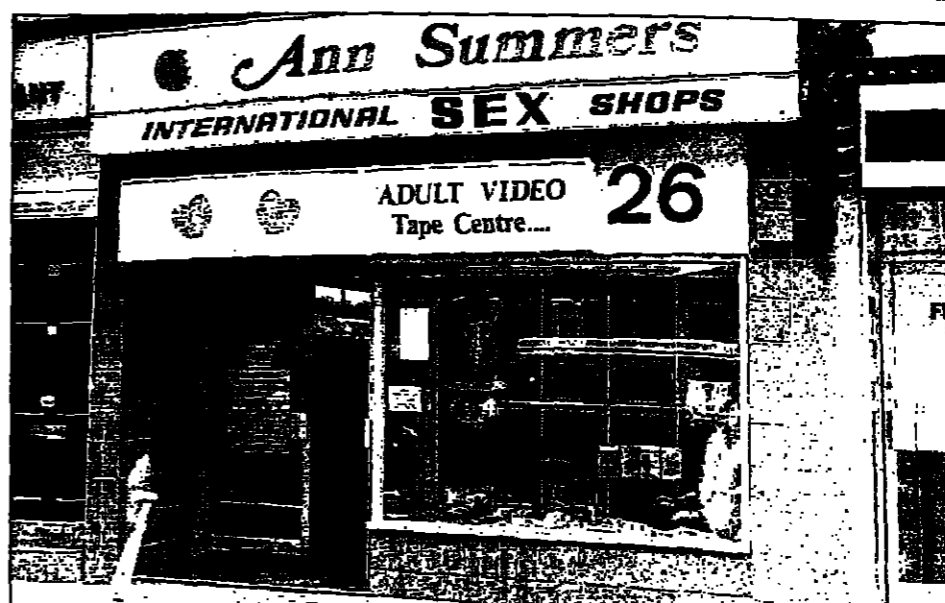
A renewed interest among designers in underwear as a fashion item has also been a crucial factor in bringing the Anne Summers range in from the margins of respectability. Much of the catalogue lingerie is now part of high street retailers' stock-in-trade. Mass market fashion has happily absorbed the bustier and the basque, and there is little on the underwear pages of the catalogue to shock anyone reasonably at home in Dorothy Perkins or Miss Selfridge.

Where Anne Summers has scored is in the area of added value: it's not what you buy, but how you buy it. On a Monday night in Weston-super-Mare, Rachel is giving a party. Her mother has come along with her two nieces for a night out without the men. "I work in a pub, and there are always all these men sitting around making jokes about women. At least when they're out of the way you have the chance to get your own back." She once bought her husband a willy warmer, but hasn't seen it since. She probably won't

bother with another one this Christmas. "I just like the laugh, and the company. I'll probably end up buying a suspender belt; they look good value." Ms Gold puts the company philosophy simply: "An Anne Summers party is a fun night out for women. It's important that men aren't around."

A good party is a raucous one, with the right atmosphere of ribaldry and relaxation. Sue Purdham has been running parties in Bristol for more than five years, and knows her customers. "The art of it is to get everybody relaxed and laughing. Once they've played a couple of glasses of wine, then they'll spend money." As a sales technique, it requires some skill — take it too far, and people will be squirming with embarrassment, make it too clean and people might feel cheated. "I've only ever had a couple of women walk out," she says.

Anne Summers relies on tested techniques, most of them introduced to this country by Tupperware in the 1960s. Creating a complex ritual turns direct selling into a social occasion. All Tupperware parties used to start with games, to make people relax. Of course, what they are doing by breaking down social inhibitions is breaking down



Soho showcase: but at the Anne Summers parties buying is done in sealed envelopes

inhibitions to buying. Actual buying at an Anne Summers party is discreetly done in sealed envelopes, to protect customers from embarrassment. Although there is no hard sell, and it is perfectly possible to leave without buying anything, the party plan system relies on a powerful hidden persuader. Many women feel that once they have been invited to a friend's house they really cannot leave without buying something.

Like most party plan companies, Anne Summers make sure there are enough inexpensive lines in the catalogue to offer even the most hard-up

customer a cheap and honourable way out. In a recession, an Anne Summers party represents a pretty cheap and cheerful night out. Add to that the chance to earn a discount if you become a hostess yourself, or to start earning money — more than a couple of hundred pounds a week if you're prepared to take it on seriously — by becoming an organiser, and it's not surprising that business is booming.

From the company's point of view, the selling technique has a lot going for it: no need to advertise, as your customers do your marketing for you; very low staff costs, since most

of your sales force is self-employed and turns over very fast on a casual basis; high profit margins, as there is no retail middleman involved. All the signs are that Anne Summers is looking at a highly satisfactory recession.

SARA DAVIES
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CORRECTION
The head teacher of Hampstead School, London, is Tamsyn Imlison; we regret incorrectly recording her name in an article of December 9.

valentino
BOUTIQUE
LADIES & MENS

Sale

174 SLOANE ST, LONDON SW1
180 NEW BOND ST, LONDON W1

071 225 5855
071 493 2598

Karl Lagerfeld
Sale

176 NEW BOND ST, LONDON W1
071 493 6277

A change of tack for the tux

The jacket with the shiney lapels has returned as the star of this season's evening wear — custom-made for the woman who wants to be a scene stealer

There is little in a man's wardrobe that a woman has not borrowed for herself. Over the years fashionable women have worn grandad's shirts and combinations, dapper-looking waistcoats from the backs of the elite schoolboys of Eton, rugby shirts from his playing fields and, this year, the whole kit of trousers, jacket, waistcoat, shirt and tie was offered by the likes of Ralph Lauren as a take on the quintessentially English city gentleman. Mr. Lauren's models wore bowler hats.

It is not so surprising, then, that the trend has eventually filtered through to evening. If you spend your day masquerading as a pin-sharp, pin-striped banker, then why not follow suit after dark? And so the tuxedo, a fundamental item in any man-about-town's wardrobe, has emerged as this season's alternative to fanciful evening dressing. In contradiction to the *flousses* and *frou-frou* frivolities of strictly ballgown frocks, the tuxedo is severe in silhouette, minimalistic in colour and cut, and devoid of extraneous appendages. With the tuxedo, what you see is exactly what you get.

Quite obviously, there is a great difference between a man in a tuxedo and a woman wearing one. While men may relish the anonymity of hiding in a roomful of similarly attired black and white characters, a woman who challenges convention will find herself the centre of attention. Tuxedos are not for shrinking violets. While swishy fish tail skirts, or bowed bustles get you noticed only as you leave the party, a tux makes an entrance. It is a scene stealer.

The tuxedo's origins caused equal fuss. When Griswold Lorillard wore a smoking jacket to the Autumn Ball at the aristocratic Tuxedo Park Club in Orange County, New York in 1886, his flouting of etiquette shocked fellow members. So notorious was this sartorial spectacle that the name stuck, and soon the dinner jacket with the shiney lapels became part of the establishment, due in part to its start in society, but also because of its straightforward restraint. It is easy to put on a tuxedo and look good.

When Yves Saint Laurent first showed the tuxedo suit (jacket and trousers) in his Autumn Winter womenswear collection in 1966 it was met with a disquiet similar to that experienced by Lorillard almost 100 years earlier. In an age of great change, Saint Laurent's daring pushed the traditional image of woman still further.

In 1981 M. Saint Laurent was asked a seemingly impossible question. If he had to choose just one piece from all the collections he had created, just one piece, what would it be? There was no hesitation: "without a shadow of a doubt," he said, "the tuxedo." The image of "le smoking" suits has become so



Fashion IAIN R. WEBB

synonymous with Saint Laurent, that the master designer sees it as almost interchangeable with the Yves Saint Laurent label.

Regardless of fad or fashion the tuxedo still remains among the most desirable items of clothing on any modern woman's shopping list. It has also become an illuminating icon for designers the world over to rework, giving it their own handwriting. But it will always carry the signature of Saint Laurent, no matter how far removed from the original. Indeed, the YSL tuxedo which today scrolls down the catwalk, or along the *rive gauche* in Paris, has been transported by the designer himself to keep pace with his, and fashion's, ever-changing vision.

At a time when it is fashionable for women to dress in men's suits, Saint Laurent's newest transformation is a dress, still bearing the hallmarks of the archetypal jacket, only longer, cut to hug the waist, and flare from the hip. Naturally, a trouser suit still parades alongside.

The tuxedo encapsulates good taste. Almost any designer can make it fit their style. This season, almost every designer has.

Giorgio Armani takes elements of the tuxedo, designing long, elegant gowns which are no more than elongated satin lapels. His ankle length, double-breasted, shawl collared jacket is the epitome of understated chic. Valentino cuts his in see-through organza, edged with satin ribbon. This is worn with matching trousers and a bugle beaded, fringed belt. Another dress from Ralph Lauren hugs the body, while Donna Karan shuns modesty with a coat-cum-dress which relies on a single button at the waist to keep it together, its circular cut hem trailing open to reveal the legs. Jasper Conran keeps his options open with both a dress and trouser suit. Celine and Georges Rech provide variations on the theme, as do the less pricey labels such as Vivella, Next, and C&A.

There are certain images which stick in the mind when thinking of the tuxedo. A polished portrait of the 1930s film star Tyrone Power; Sean Connery in *Goldfinger*; or Bryan Ferry doing his best to emulate him; even Marlene Dietrich in talls. But if it is a stylistic reference you seek there is only one which is spot on for right now. Bianca Jagger married Mick in a white tux. The marriage may not have lasted but the look endures.

Right: Black double-breasted "smoking" dress, £1,055, by Yves Saint Laurent from Yves Saint Laurent Five Gauche, 137 New Bond Street, London W1; 33 Sloane Street, London W1. Black straw "picture beret", £120, by Graham Smith from Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Creamy white chiffon stole, £90, by Harriet Armstrong (enquiries: 071 584 7312). Black ultra sheer nylon tights, £3.85, by Pretty Polly from John Lewis, Oxford Street, London W1 and major department stores nationwide. Black satin cross strap shoes, £175, by Gina to order from Gina shoes, 42 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071 235 1440).

Far right: Black double-breasted tuxedo jacket, £468; black two pleat trouser, £273; orange silk shirt, £285, all by Jasper Conran from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1; Sage, Piccadilly, London W1; Moon, 519 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12. Black beaded bra, £7.99, from selected branches of C&A nationwide. Chocolate brown ribbon hat, £136, by Jacques Le Corre from The Hat Shop at, 58 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2; Street Christopher's Place, London W1; 30 Wilson Street, Glasgow G1. Black velvet diamonds trimmed shoes, £125, by Russell & Bromley from 24/25 New Bond Street, London W1 (mail order: 071 629 6903). Tights as before.

Make-up: Stephanie Jenkins. Hair: Terry Saxon for Michael van Clarke.



Originals: Saint Laurent's 1966-67 'smoking' jacket, left, and the 1966 sketch



A jacket for all reasons

HOTLINE

FOR MEN the choice of a formal winter overcoat is sometimes the only choice. This winter, however, sees another option. The longer-line leather jacket looks smart enough to wear over a suit, yet still works at the weekend.

Like a flying jacket but sleeker, double and single-breasted, belted or otherwise, the jacket has superseded the omnipresent motorcycle jacket as the hippest new look for leather. Style-setting young men team it with berets, for a look which falls somewhere between French resistance fighter and beamish.

The black leather jacket shown here is £350 from Woodhouse, 362 Oxford Street, London W1 (beret by Kangol). Sam Walker, 41



Sleek: the maquis look...

Neal Street, London WC2 offers a black single or double-breasted leather jacket for £395; the Next Directory has a brown leather jacket at £250 (M91959).

Booking the cooks

THOSE who thought Tiffany's was just for breakfast might try *The Tiffany Gourmet Cookbook*. John Loring, Tiffany's design director, has persuaded 54 hosts and hostesses from the fashion and design worlds to share their culinary secrets. More than 200 menus range from a flamboyant meringue cake by Arrigo Cipriani, of Harry's Bar in Venice, to the designer Bill Blass's homely meatloaf. The book costs £35, from Tiffany & Co, 25 Old Bond Street, W1.

For a bespoke suit, try the new ladies department of Bernard Weatherall, 8 Savile Row, W1. "Lady Weatherall" brings together designers, cutters and tailors so that clients can create their own garments, choosing from sketches and swatches.

ALL A CHAP REALLY WANTS FOR CHRISTMAS: A BLAZING FIRE AND A SMOKING HAT.



Probably not the first thing you thought to buy your Gentlemen friends. Neither, for that matter is the good old 'Plumpton eight-piece'. (Another hat, don't you know.) All the more reason therefore to visit Simpson Piccadilly. The place is positively teeming with gift ideas from top to bottom. From headgear to footgear. And it's only two shakes from

Piccadilly Circus. **DAKS Simpson**
071-734 2002 PICCADILLY



Matthew Parris

All things must pass, and the European Community may be among the first to go

I was when Mrs Thatcher (as she then was) went to a banquet three years ago, dressed in a gown which needed a train-bearer to walk behind her holding it, that I realised the game was up.

Until then I had only suspected. The arguments were strong but not decisive. Her leadership style was worrying but not indefensible. A case of sorts could be advanced for the poll tax.

But not for that train bearer. You don't do that sort of thing, you just don't. Say what you like about sterling M3, but here was a judgment one felt entirely qualified to make. I abandoned hope for her whom I had loved so long. In a relationship of trust there comes a point when something snaps, and it so often comes over an utterly trivial thing: trivial enough for you to know what you are talking about; to feel sure at last of your ground; to be certain that it really is the other person and not you who has gone wonky, or behaved badly, or cheated.

Politics, like love and the theatre, requires from us a continuous and energetic suspension of disbelief. This is tiring, for the moment the effort is abandoned all is lost. You hold on as you do to a window ledge. You can never reconstruct a broken illusion, and so a trivial moment can prove quite shattering. Thus it proved for me with that gown. And thus it proved for me, last week, with the EC.

Of course, one tries to believe in these things. One had a very nice camping holiday once in the south of France, and both of one's sisters are married to Catalans; and so these nagging doubts about the viability of the project are suspended. Little signs of *folie de grandeur* on the part of Euro-VIPs are overlooked; a nagging feeling that the whole of the European parliament is a waste of time is ignored.

You renew acquaintances with old political chums who have gone off for a few years to be something in Brussels, and realise they have gone mad. They are babbling. They are speaking in tongues. They use strange nouns which sound like words but signify nothing. Their sentences have subjects, verbs and objects, but no meaning. You start to tell them about what people in England think, and you see them look away. That, too, you try to ignore.

Y ou glance at the balance sheets and notice that the only thing the EC actually does is run the common agricultural policy, under which farmers are paid not to grow things — and you shut your eyes. You hear your countrymen talking in pubs, realise that they will never accept increases in taxes from a German — and you block your ears. You read about harmonisation of lawnmower noise or the banning of Arbroath smokies hung on a wooden rack — and you think "oh well, perhaps it's not true".

You travel in Italy and observe that nobody there is taking any notice of the regulations that are closing down businesses in your own country — and you comfort yourself that it's surely just a matter of time: it may take a decade or ten, still, for a culture of administrative anarchy to change. You read that the French franc is in trouble, think "good", and try to stop yourself thinking it. And, all in all, and at the expense of considerable effort, you keep up the struggle to suspend disbelief.

And then you open a newspaper over the weekend and, under the headline "EC backs Athens in Macedonia recognition row", you read this:

"We are prepared to recognise Macedonia under any name of its choosing, provided it does not contain the word Macedonia," the (EC) spokesman said.

And something snaps. And I am not going to go on about it, for suddenly it is clear to me that there's no need. No need to argue, no need to lobby, no need to fight.

All the things you know must come to pass will come to pass with a sort of wonderful inevitability; and we can relax. Step back, salute whatever European flag they put before us, and wait for it to happen. It was such a relief, really, that Macedonian moment, in its way.

S o was the announcement of the "separation" of the Prince and Princess of Wales. My problems with the monarchy have been parallel but opposite to my problems with Europe. Europe I wished to believe in but couldn't. The monarchy I have always wished to disbelieve in, but been unable to. I mean, if you think about it — all those palaces and glass carriages and coronations, and the theory that God has made the Queen royal — you can't really believe it, can you? You could hardly believe — not, anyway, on mature reflection — that someone should be bowed or curtsied to purely on account of their having been born to someone else who was bowed or curtsied to.

But, because it does stir something in me and because I did want to believe in it, I have always tried not to think to suspend disbelief. Last week, with the news, slight in itself, about Charles and Diana, I accepted that one cannot, I really must grow up and cast off this sort of thing. I learnt nothing I did not know already: but something snapped. Enough said, I think.

Enough said, too, about Scotland, where the government has just increased spending again. I watched the announcement in the Commons. As ever, it was greeted by Scottish fury that the English must be cheating them. That is the only reaction you ever get at Westminster from the Celts. And in that moment, I accepted that it does not matter what we do: they don't trust us and never will because we are another race, and conquered them. Scotland will have to go: probably before Wales but after Northern Ireland.

Today in the Commons, Tony Benn moves a bill to abolish the monarchy and reform the United Kingdom into a commonwealth of three self-governing nations. Determination of the EC is not included in Mr Benn's bill. He's dealing with that separately. I have just read a summary of his bill. And suddenly I realise that he's right. All these things will come to pass. Me, a conservative, agreeing with Tony Benn? Crikey. A good moment to depart for Christmas in Paraguay, as I now do.

Success at Edinburgh gives the prime minister hope of solving problems at home, writes Peter Riddell

Major's chance to rebuild

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

John Major now has the chance to escape from the Maastricht trap. Apart from the election campaign, arguments about the treaty have dominated his two years in Downing Street, limiting his freedom of manoeuvre and dividing the Tory party. But the harmonious outcome to the Edinburgh summit offers him at least the hope that the constraints of Maastricht may be removed next year.

His predicament is similar to Harold Wilson's ahead of the referendum on membership of the European Community in 1975. Admittedly, the Tory parliamentary party is now more strongly pro-EC than Labour MPs were in the mid-1970s, and the Major cabinet remains united while the Wilson cabinet had an "agreement to differ" over the referendum. The private doubts of Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and Michael Portillo about the EC now are mere whispers compared with the loudly proclaimed dissent then of Michael Foot, Peter Shore and Tony Benn. But, like Mr Major now, Lord Wilson faced strict limits on what he could do politically until after the referendum. He sought to keep both his party in office, in a

reasonably united state, and Britain in Europe.

Mr Major has identical aims. He believes that only ratification of the Maastricht treaty will both reunite his party and keep Britain "at the very heart of Europe". The Edinburgh summit helped to bring the Community back together after the setbacks of the past year. The agenda was intended to clear the decks of the long-running disputes over internal structure, so that the EC could go ahead with the more significant issues of enlargement, relations with Russia and central Europe, and free trade.

The basic question was whether the twelve wanted the Community to move ahead and were prepared to take account of the special difficulties of some countries, such as Denmark. In the end, they did, partly thanks to the diplomatic skills of Mr Major. However irritated other EC countries may get with Britain, their officials praise Mr Major's ability at handling meetings. His whip's qualities

came into full play; his intuitive understanding of other politicians' moods and views. That was needed in Edinburgh since the whole of the package — future financing and enlargement talks as well as Denmark — had to be agreed if any single part was to stand.

The Eurosceptics' hopes for failure made sense only on the nihilistic grounds that they wanted the whole of the EC to unravel. If agreement had not been possible at Edinburgh, big divisions would have emerged within the EC and prospects for enlargement, and possibly also the Gatt trade talks, would have been threatened.

The costs of agreement are not outlandish. The lengthily argued compromise on the EC budget does mean a bigger, and earlier, increase in spending than Britain would have liked —

and Jacques Delors boasted of getting 85 per cent of what he wanted. But the rise is not as large as in the past. Moreover, the growth initiative, while probably not altering the overall rate of recovery from recession, may bring forward some desirable cross-EC infrastructure projects and investment. The Eurosceptics and the lawyers will obviously be picking over the subsidiary provisions. There is a smaller rolling back of the powers of Brussels than Britain might have wished, and the examples so far are more symbolic than significant. But there has been some shift away from centralisation; the extent is still to be determined.

Much could still go wrong before the Maastricht chapter is closed. The first signs last night from Denmark were very positive but the result of the second referendum is still not certain. Douglas Hurd yesterday underlined the stakes. If the Danes vote no again, not only would the treaty be dead but Britain would not participate in a "son-

of-Maastricht treaty" without Denmark. The risk of a divided EC with Britain on the outside remains.

In Britain, the outcome strengthens Mr Major's hand in the Commons. He has achieved his pre-summit aims and can at least wave a piece of paper on subsidiarity. Tory Eurosceptics will be more isolated. Labour will also be under pressure. The party will put forward its amendments on participation in the social chapter and over political control of the European central bank, the two trickiest areas for the government. But Labour is now running out of excuses to oppose the bill if it is to safeguard its pro-EC credentials.

Mr Major succeeded in avoiding any reference to deadlines for ratification, just promising to ratify "as speedily as possible consistent with good examination" of the bill. But he knows that no event created more hostility in other EC capitals to the British presidency than his concession to a handful

of Tory MPs. In the "paving" debate on November 4, that the Commons third reading would not be held until after the second Danish referendum, assuming it is held in May. That threatened to reverse the positive reassessment in the rest of Europe, particularly Germany, of Britain's approach in the EC which had occurred after Mr Major became prime minister.

In practice, the bill will probably not be ready for a Commons third reading until late April, even if the Danish referendum is earlier. Provided the bill passes the Commons, approval of the Maastricht bill is then certain, however long Baroness Thatcher and Lord Tebbit speak. The rest of the EC will know by the late spring if Britain will ratify.

A failure at Edinburgh could have soured the bill. As it is, the row over Maastricht may increasingly become a matter of endurance. Once the process is complete, Mr Major, like Lord Wilson in 1975, will have greater freedom to concentrate on other matters, such as the balance of his cabinet and future strategy. The Edinburgh summit was a necessary first step for Mr Major in rebuilding his premiership.

Rough justice for little people

Bernard Levin goes out to bat for two 'offenders' on whom the law took a disproportionate toll

De minimis non curat lex. Oh, yes? Tell that to Mr Robert Harrison, a schoolteacher — or, more precisely, a former schoolteacher — and Mr Anthony Anderson, an amateur fisherman and convicted felon.

First, Mr Harrison. Until the misfortune fell upon him, he had been a schoolteacher for 30 years, the last 15 at Beaumont School in St Albans, which is a science period, a 14-year-old boy in Mr Harrison's class heated a pair of forceps in a Bunsen burner and handed them to the unwitting dominie, who took them heat first; before he could drop them they had burnt and blistered his hand.

We may deduce the glee with which the miscreant saw his trick working; the glee was somewhat reduced, however, when Mr Harrison instinctively slapped him and called him a "stupid boy". Perhaps the glee returned later, because when the incident came to the ears of the authorities, the board of governors of Beaumont School, they sacked Mr Harrison, describing what he did as "gross misconduct".

My regular readers know that I am much given to making comedy out of reality by blowing it up into invented and fantastic forms. I must therefore disclaim any such action in this story: Mr Harrison was 30 years a teacher, and was half that time at one school, and did slap a 14-year-old boy who for mischief had burnt his hand quite badly, and was sacked for doing so. But I must put out an even more solemn warning that the next bit is also nothing but the truth: when Mr Harrison went to the unfair dismissal tribunal, the sacking was upheld because of another packet of indies, please, and there is no need to wrap them — Mr Harrison had acted in retaliation, not self-defence.

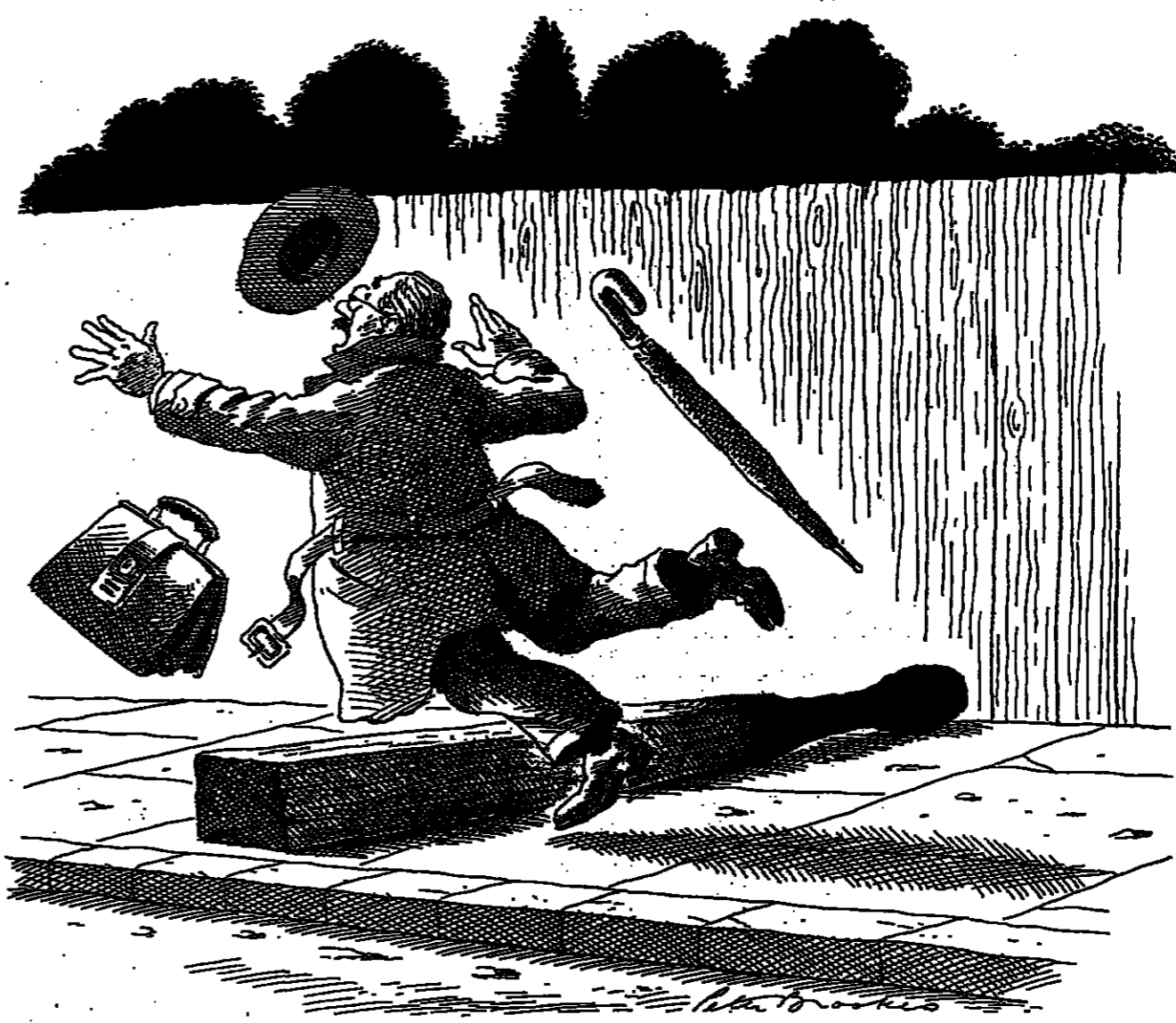
More anon; but now to Mr Anderson and his fishing expedition, which ended in gyves upon his wrists. He was digging for lugworms (a lugworm, as I am sure you know, is correctly

called *Arenicola marina*, and is to be found, or at least dug for, in the sands of our coastal waters). Mr Anderson, it must be emphasised, was not going to cook and eat the lugworms, which are far from edible; the use to which he was to put them was as bait for more succulent and more elusive aquatic creatures. (There will now be a short pause while the Animal Liberation Front organises a demo, which will end with Mr Anderson and me being beaten up.)

It is important to make clear that Mr Anderson was an amateur fisherman plying his rod (lugworm and all) for sport and his supper, not for commercial purposes. This is significant because there is a local statute (Boulmer Haven, Northumberland), which forbids the digging for lugworms in order to prevent the commercial search for them. (I don't see why, but perhaps the commercial lugworm-fishers have been spoiling the smooth sandy surface of the local beaches.)

I n any case, Mr Anderson was prosecuted and fined £50. Not a great sum, you may say (though Mr Anderson is unemployed), but there was a great matter of principle, and he stood upon that principle as Hampden did on the Ship Money. He has so far invoked Magna Carta, the legal difference between the foreshore and the seashore, and thousands of fishermen. He is also challenging the nature of the statute under which he was prosecuted, which he has categorised as "uncertain, unreasonable and repugnant to the law of the land".

Attributed, Anderson, I'm with you all the way, and that goes too for Mr Harrison. But there are deeper waters. Can we really have fallen so far in the beastliness of officialdom that a fisherman is prosecuted for catching a worm, and have we also fallen into — I really cannot restrain my language here — the kind of idiocy that sacks a devoted teacher because he delivers a



most proper and deserved slap to a very naughty boy?

The Harrison case raised a memory in my mind. One day, when I was a schoolboy, there was in a science period an almost exactly identical incident; a heated test tube pressed to the back of a neck, and I remember the details so vividly because the neck it was pressed to was mine. I yelled — I couldn't help doing so — and teacher, before Aristides Levin could say that no harm had been done and that it was all a joke, dragged out the culprit and then there gave him six of the best. Neither the culprit, nor I, nor any boy in the class, nor anyone in the school, nor indeed in the land — nay, in the world — would have found anything odd, let alone wrongful, in such a solution; but the

culprit, and I, and any boy in the class, and indeed anyone in the land — yes, in the world — would have thought the outcome of the Harrison case stark staring mad.

A slap? A slap? And one delivered not as a savage blow, brooded over and plotted as revenge, but truly a knee-jerk response to a nasty burn from a nasty child? Who, or perhaps I should say what, are the people, or I should say things, capable of such action in such a case? Corporal punishment has at most died out in Britain; I don't think it ever did any good. But whether it did or didn't, this trifling, instinctive and proper action by a responsible and honourable teacher should have been applauded; and even if a reprimand was thought appro-

prate, it should have been given privately, unofficially and with good humour. Instead, a teacher is sacked and I have to go out to bat for him, if only because it seems nobody else will.

A nd Mr Anderson? He has, happily, managed to get legal aid in fighting this preposterous worm in a teacup. But the matter epitomises something very similar to the Harrison case, though of course less grave. What have we done with flexibility? What have we done with informality? What have we done with generosity, proportion, ease, calm, measure? Why is it now assumed that a law must be invariably and inexorably pressed to its ultimate form, and never left alone even when nothing and nobody has been

harmed or even disturbed? Lord Justice Taylor has been saying, in vigorous terms, that more judges must be trained and appointed because of the scandalous delays in bringing cases into court. Cannot he tell the Alnwick magistrates, who fined Mr Anderson because he caught a lugworm "without lawful right or authority", to go and boil their heads, or — if that is beyond his powers — to drop the case? And cannot the governors of the Beaumont School murmur into Mr Harrison's ear that it is not necessary for him to go all the way to the House of Lords to get justice, but that if he were to keep quiet for a term or two he could come back, all passion spent? And that the school authorities, as a mark of contrition, would present him with a pair of boxing gloves?

A little local difficulty

HAVING negotiated a successful conclusion to the Edinburgh summit John Major may now have to employ his diplomatic skills closer to home. His soothing tones may be required to pacify the party's agents, the paid employees who run constituency associations.

For the first time, agents are making disloyal noises, over Maastricht, the economy, and Norman Lamont's legal fees. Such is the state of discontent that the party high command has moved to quell further rebellion. A blunt letter has been sent to all agents warning them not to air criticism in public.

Signed by officers of the National Society of Conservative and Unionist Agents it says: "It is no exaggeration to say that as a result of the behaviour of some members of the National Society in recent months the professional status of the party agents is beginning to be called into question. Our commitment to the Conservative cause as agents is not in question, but we feel it appropriate, as a result of some incidents recently, to remind all members of the National Society that whatever personal opinions or views we hold, they are best kept to ourselves and certainly never aired in public. Any departure from this rule endangers the professional standing of the party agents."

The letter continues: "Our duty as agents is to stand loyally by the leader of the party and the policies of the government which were endorsed by the electorate." But the missive contains implicit criticism of the party leadership. "There is no doubt that a series of recent policy decisions by the government has tested the loyalty of many of our supporters in the country and indeed some members of the party."

The council tax and coal closures would test loyalty even further, it says. But loyal the agents must be. "There is a long-standing and strong convention that Conservative agents should remain above any internal policy debates, and under no circumstances be seen by word or deed to question or undermine the policies of the leadership of the party." That's democracy for you.

French leave
PRESIDENT Mitterrand has been having mixed luck with his royal-style walkabouts in Britain. In Edinburgh on Friday his motorcade made one irregular stop only to find the public nowhere in sight. On Saturday he was more fortunate when he stopped in the Royal Mile for an impromptu tour of shops. It had originally been thought he was looking for a kilt for his wife Danielle — an honorary doctor of Edinburgh University — but he settled for his and hers Aran sweaters. A pity because kiltmakers pride themselves on being able to find tartans for anyone. The McTontion tartan has a ring to it.



DIARY

Going for broke

THE Western Isles Council, which lost millions in the BCCI scandal, is hoping it has found a financial saviour: Donald Trump. The American businessman is on a visit of businessmen with links to the area targeted by the island's enterprise group for entrepreneurial help. Trump's mother came from Back, in Lewis, and he still has cousins living on the island. Whether Trump, whose financial difficulties dwarf those of the Hebridean council, is the man to restore confidence in the islands remains to be seen.

● **Edinburgh's taxi drivers**, not ones to let a chance of making extra money pass them by, took full advantage of the summit circus. Last any of their number forgot, as streets were blocked off for the Mitterrand cavalcade to pass, a message went out on radios: "Make sure y've got yer meter on."

● **bers of midgets**. Croy is today asking the government whether it is continuing financial support for the experiment of reducing bracken by the use of imported caterpillars. Quite.

Benn rap

THOSE who thought politicians embarrassing themselves on *Top of the Pops* was a thing of the past should think again. Neil Kinnock's ill-advised appearance in a video with Tracey Ullman has not deterred Tony Benn. His recent stirring speech in the Commons against pit closures has been included in a fund-raising album for the miners called *The Undeclared*. Benn's speech, backed by Grimethorpe Colliery Band, ends with a rendition of *Raise Your Banner High* by the Sheffield singer Roy Bailey. "This is the first time a speech from the House of Commons has been combined with music in this way," says Benn enthusiastically. "It brings together the parliamentary and the popular, the traditional and the topical."

Paper weights

SOME of the unpublished jottings of Marcel Proust will be among manuscripts auctioned at Sotheby's tomorrow in aid of

an extension to the London Library. Sketches for an episode from *A la recherche* have a £5,000 price tag, though a James Joyce manuscript is expected to go for even more. Of contemporary writers, a manu-



script donated by John Le Carré reveals that one of his best known books, *The Little Drummer Girl*, might have been called *Charlie the Red* or *The True Line*. Ted Hughes, Sir Kingsley Amis, Baroness James (P.D. James), Ruth Rendell, A.L. Rowe and Sir Stephen Spender have all given something to the auction. The library remains faithful to the ideal of its founder Thomas Carlyle. Sleeping members "will not be disturbed until closing time".



A FINE REPAIR JOB

The prime minister did well at Edinburgh

Blessed be the bureaucrats: the British have again proved themselves the subtlest legal drafters in the European field. This was the summit, said a visibly relieved John Major in Edinburgh, "that put the Community back together" and its nations on the track to economic recovery. For once the prime minister can be forgiven his touch of hyperbole.

Credit belongs to all the Queen's men for their painstaking EC budget plan, a compromise on British terms which keeps spending within bounds while avoiding open rift between Europe's richer countries and the "poor four" led by Spain. Still more ingenious is the formula for addressing the Danish question without reopening the text of Maastricht. Against heavy odds, the British presidency has cleared away a mass of contentious business stemming from the politicians' drive towards European union and the revolt this over-ambitious treaty has generated among their electorates.

It is increasingly clear now that the debate in Europe since the Danish referendum has had its chastening effect, not least on the other bureaucrats, those in Brussels. The EC Commission has committed itself to produce an annual work programme for national parliaments to scrutinise. It has promised to make a case for each legislative proposal and to use green papers and other methods of consulting governments before acting. The Edinburgh communiqué, despite its ritual affirmation that the European Monetary System is "a key factor of economic stability and prosperity in Europe", provided further evidence that EC thinking is moving Britain's way. References to cutting subsidies and public sector pay, to encouraging competition and private investment, were much more redolent of Whitehall than of Jacques Delors's vision of Europe.

Community housekeeping absorbed a disproportionate amount of summit time. Parochialism has become a standing reproach for a group that includes three of the world's biggest military powers, has commensurate diplomatic influence and

will open for business on January 1 as the world's largest single market. But by implicitly giving the go-ahead to UN enforcement in Bosnia and by leaving the way open to Macedonia to apply to the UN for recognition, Edinburgh began to break away from the Maastricht parish-pump.

Mr Major also did well to obtain a decision to start negotiations on admitting Sweden, Austria and Finland on January 1. The summit promised the countries of Central and Eastern Europe more liberal access to EC markets and promised that they will be welcome to join the EC as soon as they are ready — an overdue gesture to these countries' political need for a club to join.

Negotiating skills are only a part of what is needed in the next phase for the Community. The Humpty Dumpty of European union will not be released from the intensive care unit unless and until the Danes return a positive vote in Denmark's second referendum on Maastricht. Europe is fortunate that its economic fortunes do not depend on decisions taken at Edinburgh: Mr Major cannot seriously believe that a few billion Ecus from the European Investment Bank will create "new confidence for investment and for jobs in every country".

Edinburgh's promises of respect for the principle of subsidiarity and more openness in decision-making have yet to be tested. The Commission's powers to bring in legislation remain intact and there is endless scope for contrary interpretations in the lengthy annexes of "guidelines".

Mr Major's Edinburgh strategy does, however, offer a way forward. Even if Maastricht were to be ratified by all 12 parliaments, economic reality will combine with the limitations imposed by the Edinburgh guidelines to circumscribe its implementation. Once the treaty is in its proper place, the EC will be open to new members. And it might at last begin to think seriously about more weighty matters, beginning with its relations with the wider world and the widening war on its southern doorstep.

CRAMMING AT CHRISTMAS

School children should be longer and earlier at their desks

Scrooge himself would be proud. The revised classes for GCSE and A level candidates launched this week are as lacking in festive spirit as most children could imagine. But they reflect growing anxiety among parents and pupils that the demands of the reformed examination system are not being met by time spent in the classroom.

As the pressures on schools to succeed have multiplied, so teaching time has dwindled. In 1994, 14-year-olds will be tested in no fewer than seven compulsory subjects. Yet most children are taught for only 24 hours a week, compared to 30 or more in the 1960s — still the norm in Scotland today. A Japanese schoolgirl will spend 1,500 hours a year in lessons, 550 more than an English schoolboy.

Although academic standards are the obvious casualty of short school days, extra-curricular activities suffer too. Regrettably, many schools now allocate less than an hour a week to team sports, and most complain that the national curriculum has squeezed the time available for drama, music and dance.

An appealing solution is the five-term academic year already used by some City Technology Colleges. The long summer holiday, originally timed to release children for the harvest, would be replaced by a four-week break, and each term pared down to eight weeks of short, sharp study.

Since the school year currently lasts 38 weeks, the net gain would be two weeks of lesson time. But such an upheaval in educational custom would have to be

instantaneous and universal to be of any use. Next to the seasons themselves, school terms are the most important units of time in the nation's calendar, dictating the dates around which most families plan their lives. Piecemeal regional change would be a recipe for confusion — not least for those setting dates for national examinations.

In practice, extending the school day is a more attractive answer to the timetable squeeze and one for which useful models exist on the Continent and closer to home. The CTCs, open from 7.30am till the early evening, have already found that longer hours of business have reduced truancy rates, and broadened their range of non-academic activities. An earlier start for comprehensive schools at 8.30am, coupled with a shorter lunch break, would concentrate teaching in the hours when children are most receptive, and liberate time in the afternoon for non-academic pursuits or supervised homework.

Governors already have the power to make such changes and will be encouraged to do so by market forces. Schools that offer extended teaching will attract more pupils and more money. The extra hours worked by teachers would at present need a supplementary contract. But the introduction of performance-related pay, bonuses and, eventually, local bargaining of salaries and conditions will permit much greater flexibility in timetabling. Mr Patten should actively encourage this sort of local initiative — and consider a national model if local initiative fails.

THAT CERTAIN SMILE

The mystery of the Mona Lisa must be unexplained

The lady is older than the rocks among which she sits; like the vampire, she has been dead many times and learned the secrets of the grave. . . . But what is her secret, and why is she smiling in that disturbing way?

The enigma on the face of the Mona Lisa has excited detective and exoteric instincts since her paint was just dry five centuries ago. Viewers have found there everything from maternal tenderness to the pitiless archaic smile, from the essence of fulfilled womanhood to the sly triumph of a Borgia who has slipped exotic seasoning into the soup. In spite of her continental nickname, Jocond does not exactly fit that sinister leer. She is an ambiguous painting, which does not give everything away, and to which everyone can bring a particular obsession. Characteristically, Freud found sex in La Gioconda, the contrast between reserve and seduction, "consuming men as if they were alien beings".

The latest theory, from a psychiatrist who has a record of such historic-artistic detection, is that she is a self-portrait by Leonardo. This is not quite new. X-rays of the painting have shown a beard beneath the surface. The new suggestion is that she is a mirror image; and transposing the picture in a mirror certainly warms up that disturbing smile and makes it look remarkably like the half-smiling statue of David by Verrocchio, for which the young Leonardo is thought to have been the model. The suggestion is that Leonardo, who was left-handed and probably homosexual, used his

own face in the mirror as his model for a self-portrait in inversion, both laterally and sexually. The tradition is that he was infatuated with the Mona Lisa, and kept her with him until his death in Paris.

Nothing about a great painting is uninteresting. But it would be a mistake to suppose that the heart of an artistic mystery can be plucked out by such literal detective work. Among the arts of reason is to know when reason must stop.

There is a mystery too about the reflection of the Rokeby Venus in her mirror. Nobody knows what the naked mother, baby and the young soldier are up to in Giorgione's "La Tempesta" except that an idyll of beauty is about to be swept away by the storm. For centuries critics have been arguing about what the Venus de Milo is actually doing.

Adrian Gilbert was fat, and fond of deer-poaching and sack. "The greatest buffoon in England", according to Aubrey. He may have been a model for Falstaff, but Falstaff was not Dr Joseph Bell, the Edinburgh professor, could tell his patients' occupations from their faces. But he was only one influence on the creation of Sherlock Holmes. It does not explain the mystery of the Sonnets to show that Shakespeare was the Earl of Oxford, or even Elizabeth I, just as it does not entirely unravel the *Oedipus* suggest that it was written by a woman.

Ambiguity, ambivalence and mystery are characteristics of great works. Art must transcend experience. The secret of the Mona Lisa's smile is safe for eternity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Democracy and Hong Kong's future

From Lord Shawcross, QC

Sir, Although I do not think that the present problem in Hong Kong rests upon or should be decided by any narrow legalistic point, it is no use your leader writer (December 11) stating baldly that the proposals made by the Governor of Hong Kong in regard to the composition of the legislature comply with the Joint Declaration of 1984 and the Basic Law. They do not.

It is quite clear from the *travaux préparatoires* and the express terms of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law that the policy agreed upon was one of convergence; that there would be no basic change in the laws of Hong Kong; and that democracy would be introduced by stated and agreed changes, enabling the members elected in 1995 to carry on over the 1997 barrier to 1999. Thus, "in accordance with the principle of gradual and orderly progress", the ultimate aim of universal suffrage could be achieved within reasonable time, the directly elected seats rising from 20 to 24 in 1999 and 30 in 2004 — and so on.

It is quite possible that if the governor's proposals for more rapid and drastic progress had been raised first in the Joint Liaison Group and, if not agreed there, they had been referred to the two governments for solution through consultation, as the Joint Declaration expressly required, amicable agreement could have been arrived at. Instead, the governor chose to make his much-heralded and dramatic October speech without consulting the Chinese at all. It was a sad blunder.

It is to be hoped that after the recent abortive meeting of the Joint Liaison Group the agreed course of reference to the two governments will now be followed. As HM Government stated in the 1984 white paper "confidence is crucial to the success" of such negotiations.

May I suggest also that your sneer at "the Foreign Office mandarinate" is unworthy. The Joint Declaration of 1984 was a veritable triumph of statesmanship, diplomacy and good sense and owed much to the then political judgment and firm leadership of Mrs Thatcher (as she then was) and her immediate advisers.

Yours truly,
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,
House of Lords,
December 11.

From Lord Sharp of Grimsby

Sir, You state that "Mr Patten's critics believe, in essence, that Britain should always retreat in the face of violent Chinese opposition, lest China tear up the treaty".

It is not "retreat" in the face of Chinese opposition, nor is it yielding always to Chinese demands, if one suggests that proposed modifications to the Joint Declaration and Basic Law, whether reflecting majority opinion in Hong Kong (which I per-

sonally doubt) or not, should have been discussed with China using machinery set up for that purpose, before promulgation.

Mr Patten is certainly courageous in endeavouring to accelerate the pace of democracy in the run up to 1997. But the crucial question is, is he right and wise to do so and in the manner he has chosen? To polarise differences of views on this question, as reflected in your editorial, is not helpful. The heat needs to be taken out of this crisis — and the sooner the better.

Yours faithfully,
SHARP,
House of Lords,
December 11.

From Sir William Goodhart, QC

Sir, Elements of the business community in Hong Kong are all too willing to turn a blind eye to the suppression of democracy if that is the price which the People's Republic of China asks them to pay for being allowed to continue in business undisturbed.

Last year I led a mission to Hong Kong on behalf of the International Commission of Jurists. Our report, published in April, pointed out that in the 1984 Joint Declaration the Chinese government had expressly declared that "the legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall be constituted by elections". The Basic Law (the post-1997 constitution for Hong Kong), promulgated by China in 1990, provides, however, that half the Legislative Council is to be elected by "functional constituencies".

The functional constituencies were first created by the British administration in 1985. Most of them consist of business or professional groups, some of the members of which are not individuals at all but companies. In September 1991, 18 members of the Legislative Council were elected by direct elections based on universal suffrage. But some 3 per cent of that electorate had a second vote which elected 21 members representing functional constituencies.

Our report described this as a parody of democracy. It is also inconsistent with Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which confers on citizens the right "to vote and be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage".

It may be too late to get rid of the functional constituencies altogether, but Mr Patten's proposals to widen their franchise are a step in the right direction and are wholly consistent with the Joint Declaration. The pity of it is that the British government took no steps in the immediate aftermath of the Joint Declaration to establish proper democratic institutions in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM GOODHART
(Chairman, Executive Committee),
Justice, 95a Chancery Lane, WC2.

Synod shake-up

From Mr Jim White

Sir, In his letter to you about his resignation from the General Synod (December 5) Sir Leslie Fielding was right to point out the need for a fundamental review of the structure of that body.

The most glaring defect is that Church members do not have a direct vote in the election of its House of Laity, the house where the narrowest decisions have recently been taken. It is the House of Laity that characterises General Synod; presumably, convocations of clergy and bishops would continue even if General Synod were abolished.

A motion to put right this defect and to introduce direct voting stands

in my name and was deferred from last November's synod to next February's. As a signatory of the motion, Sir Leslie's contribution to the debate will be badly missed.

The ordination of women will not be the last important decision General Synod takes and further decisions arising out of the ordination of women will be necessary. The sooner the House of Laity achieves proper credentials as a representative body the sooner will General Synod's authority be recognised, not simply as lawful but also as rightful.

Of course, there will always be limits to what it can properly consider, however it is constituted.

Sincerely,
JIM WHITE,
Durborough Farm, Aisholt, Spaxton, Bridgwater, Somerset.

Joint effort for TV

From Mr Charles Denton

Sir, The chairman of the ITV Association, Mr Greg Dyke, attacks the report of the director-general of fair trading on proposed ITV networking arrangements (report, December 5).

He claims that "the ITV system outlined in this document is not the system individual companies bid for".

Nonsense. The "competition test", which is intended to ensure fair treatment of both the independent producers and the ITV companies and has now been applied, was a crucial part of the Broadcasting Act 1990. Every ITV licence applicant knew before it applied for a licence

that its networking arrangements would need, by law, to pass the scrutiny of the Office of Fair Trading.

The director-general of the OFT has rejected ITV's proposals. What is surely needed now is for broadcasters and producers together to attempt to establish the operational conditions for a free, informed, open and competitive market in programme supply. This would be in the best interests of broadcasters, producers and (most important) viewers.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES DENTON
(Chairman), Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television,
Gordon House,
Greencoat Place, SW1,
December 7.

Sado-masochism

From Mr Peter George

Sir, You argue (leading article, "Laws of sex and pain", December 2) that the very mark of a civilised society is that, as far as possible, it allows its citizens the liberty and the privacy (privacy, nowadays?) to do as they like without the law intervening. Many think it is a common mistake to confuse liberty with doing as you like and therefore would disagree with you. One also rather doubts that the sado-masochistic activities, which you told us would turn the stomachs of most people but suggest should be permitted in private, are much the mark of a civilised society.

Are we going to grow more and more civilised if the law tolerates less and less civilised behaviour? What

quite is the dividing line between private and public behaviour?

Yours faithfully,
PETER GEORGE,
Hale Court, Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
December 4.

From the Roman Catholic Bishop of Aberdeen

Sir, You are surely not serious in inviting us to replace respect for one another with freedom to abuse one another, albeit privately, as the basis of a civilised society?

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Security of tenure in universities

From Professor Graham Zellik

Sir, I regard some of the arguments presented in your leading article of December 4, "Security in academe", as ill-founded and misleading.

Before the Education Reform Act 1988, many, but by no means all, university teachers enjoyed security of tenure, either by virtue of their university's charter and statutes or merely by contract. The effect of such tenure was to protect them against dismissal on grounds of redundancy. If the protection emanated from the charter and statutes, dismissal on grounds of redundancy could be restrained; if by contract, substantial damages could be recovered.

However, all university teachers, whether "tenured" or not, were open to dismissal for "good cause" — e.g., conviction on a criminal charge, or scandalous conduct, or failure in the performance of duty. Thus, there were many university teachers prior to the Act who enjoyed no security of tenure in the sense defined above.

The 1988 Act was designed progressively to eliminate tenure from the university system. It did this by laying a duty on the three University Commissioners to amend the charters and statutes of all universities, so as to ensure that all new staff and those promoted could be dismissed on grounds of redundancy.

The issue in the Page case (report, December 4) was whether Mr Edgar Page fell into the category of those staff who attracted tenure, as he claimed, or was one of the many without it. It has now been established that he was not protected.

It is not the case, as you say, that this decision means that "the changes in the 1988 Act are effectively retroactive". The Page decision would have

been the same even if the 1988 Act had never been passed.

There remain staff who, notwithstanding the 1988 Act and the Page judgment, cannot be dismissed for redundancy: there are those who have never had such immunity; and there are those who, as a result of the 1988 Act, have lost it. There are also those who, like Mr Page, thought or hoped they had it, but did not.

Finally, you confuse all this with poor performance and dismissal for good cause. Tenure and protection against redundancy have never offered shelter against disciplinary action based on inadequate performance, incompetence or the like. If such action has been rare in the past, it owed nothing to tenure, and the explanation needs to be found elsewhere.

The 1988 Act also required the commissioners to modify statutes dealing with dismissal for good cause in order to simplify the procedures and make it easier to effect such dismissals. It is the view of most, if not all, vice-chancellors and principals of the chartered universities that the procedures designed by the commissioners actually make those procedures more complex and difficult than they were before.

Your advice to the commissioners in any case comes too late: they have completed their task for many institutions and are at the final stages with the remainder. Academic freedom is, in my view, more than adequately protected.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ZELICK (Principal),
Queen Mary and Westfield College,
University of London,
London E1 4NS,
December 8.

Marking exams fairly

From Mr R. A. Whelpton

Sir, It was with some incredulity that I read Professor Fitz-Gibbon's comments (letter, November 30) about English examination board procedures, since in the previous half-hour I had marked GCSE scripts both from one of our major public schools and from one of our major penal establishments. In each case I applied strictly a marking scheme which I had myself designed in such a way as to guarantee fair, efficient and unbiased marking, whichever of my team of examiners was doing the marking and whatever the candidate's background.

To question, as the professor does, whether this is the norm not only flies in the face of the facts, but impugns the integrity of the professional people who are charged with this responsibility.

To suggest then, as he does, that things are different in Northern Ireland because the centres are numbered, not named, is also based on a misconception: when I was O-level Chief Examiner for Northern Ireland in the late 1960s and early 1970s we knew very well whose scripts we were marking, because the candidates often mentioned the name of their school in their answers and we soon got to know the centre numbers. Nor did the use of candidate numbers instead of names mean that we did not know whether the candidate was a boy or a girl: we all knew that the girls' numbers began with the figure 3. But it made no difference, nor

should it have done.

I do know that the assessment was and is a good deal fairer and more objective than that of university and polytechnic degree examinations, with which I was also involved over a period of many years.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. WHELPTON,
25 Hartley Way, Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

From Mr L. K. Flint

Sir, During my many years as an examiner I have frequently marked papers from Eton and other famous public schools. I have also marked scripts from the inner-city comprehensives to which Professor Fitz-Gibbon refers and am able to reassure him that the criteria applied when marking all scripts, from whatever source, are identical.

My mind-set is such that I expect Eton's work to be good but that does not mean that I give marks away nor does it mean that I withhold marks from a candidate with a similar response from an inner-city comprehensive school.

I also lead a team of course-work moderators, which involves dealing directly with schools from time to time. It is perhaps significant that Eton's procedures, the meeting of deadlines and staff responses are without exception exactly what they should be. This is not always the case with many other schools.

Yours faithfully,
L. K. FLINT,
240 Harrogate Road,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Museum millions

From Dr Walter J. Rosenfelder

Sir, Sir Nicholas Goodison (letter, December 2) expresses concern at the reduction in funds available to our 19 national museums for the purchase of new works of art. Would not a realistic answer be for these museums, as they acquire new works, to dispose of some of the items in their collection for which they do not always have space for public display?

The policy of museums ever to increase the size of their collections, without an adequate balance between acquisition and disposal, can be questioned. The National Art-Collections Fund could be augmented by a judicious policy of sale of those works that do not form an essential part of any particular collection without in any way impairing the high standard of excellence which has been achieved by our museums.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER J. ROSENFELDER,
44 Meadow,
Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11,
December 2.

Spot the repeat

From Mr Philip Groot

Sir, How does the BBC propose to show repeats in such a way that it is "not clearly evident to viewers" (report, December 4) that they are seeing a repeat?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GROOT,
5 Dickenson Road,
Crouch Hill, N8,
December 4.

Unemployment's blight

From Dr A. W. McKenzie

Sir, Can the ordinary citizen help to reduce the blight of increasing unemployment? I cannot place a worthwhile order with Cammell Laird, while my personal needs from the Royal Ordnance are limited.

However, the 16,200 redundancies announced by the Post Office (report, December 4) appear to be due primarily to new envelope-reading technology to be introduced on all letters by 1995. Is this mechanical "efficiency" at the expense of human employment what we really want?

Could not a loose Tolpuddleian group — hopefully free from the sanction of deportation to modern Australia — resolve to omit postal coding on their letters, and thereby safeguard the employment of some willing hand-sorting postperson?

There are doubtless other ways in which we could ensure that individuals in this and other industries could reasonably retain the dignity of earning their livelihood.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. MCKENZIE,
50 Bracondale,
Norwich, Norfolk,
December 7.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The British standards watchdogs took the lead. Now the rest of the world follows, Patricia Tisdall reports

Sign up and save money

Most of the 15,500 companies which have achieved BS 5750 certification have found it worthwhile. The advantages lie not only in easier marketing — as the product is better — but also in improving their own internal business systems and boosting staff morale.

Research produced by SGS Yarsley, the UK's third largest certification body, concludes that registered companies are satisfied both with the benefits they gain and that the required standard is fair.

The approach is one of carrot and stick. The BS 5750 certificate is now required for suppliers to a growing range of public sector purchasers such as the Ministry of Defence and the National Health Service. At the time of application, half the companies surveyed for the SGS Yarsley said they had registered because big customers demanded it.

Most companies found that registration yielded unexpected benefits, including financial savings. In most instances, savings recovered the costs of registration within three years. Cost savings identified by the survey were: fewer rejects (27 per cent), reduced administration (20 per cent), increased productivity (20 per cent), savings in overtime payments (15 per cent). One registered company saved £100,000 a year by identifying and introducing a system for collecting debts.

As well as saving money, an impartial survey can improve other factors, such as safety; in one case, the accreditation procedure helped plug loopholes in fire drill and accident procedures in a nursing home. The survey found the plans neglected to include evacuation of the staff.

Attitudes to BS 5750. A Survey of 500 Registered Companies, from SGS Yarsley Quality Assured Firms Ltd.

Waving the flag of top quality

The prospect of a common European method of assuring quality took an important step forward last month with the resolution of the tricky question of who vets the assessors.

A checking procedure by which each country's accreditation body is to be assessed by a team drawn from other members was agreed at a committee meeting of the European Accreditation of Certification (EAC) in Lisbon.

Welcoming the agreement, Paul Hewlett, the chairman of the EAC, said it was an important measure which should provide the basis for an efficient and workable system of mutual recognition of certificates. "If trade in the single market is to flow freely, customers need assurances of quality which they know they can rely on," he said.

Agreement on a process of peer review of accredited certification bodies is one of a number of measures designed to bring harmonisation, not just in Europe but worldwide.

Already established is an international standard for quality management systems against which certificates are issued. This is known in the United Kingdom as British Standard (BS) 5750, in Europe as EN 29000 and internationally as ISO 9000.

Rather than inspecting products for faults at the end of the business process, the philosophy behind the quality standards is that of ensuring that errors do not occur in the first place.

Firms whose business methods conform to the standards are assessed by one of a number of commercial and highly competitive external bodies which issue certificates of compliance.

The UK was the first country to introduce a national organisation to watch such watchdogs. The National Accreditation Council for Certification Bodies (NACCB) assesses the impartiality and competence of the certification bodies and

makes recommendations for their accreditation to the trade and industry department.

The pace has increased rapidly after a slow start. The first accreditation — of Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance — occurred in February 1986. By 1990 there were 15 and a year later 18. The latest list totals 25 of which BS1 QA, a division of the British Standards Institution, is by far the largest.

Companies which are successful in obtaining a certificate from an accredited certification body obtain the right to use the symbol of a golden crown (signifying govern-



Paul Hewlett: welcomes agreement

ment) and a tick (signifying approval). This indicates that their management systems have been independently assessed as meeting the BS 5750 standard of quality.

Although obtaining the prized BS 5750 registration can be a lengthy business involving several inspection visits by auditors, most of the 15,500 companies which have now obtained their certificates believe it has been cost effective.

The pace of development in Europe has attracted favourable attention from the United States where attitudes to formal certification systems used to be negative.

This is particularly apparent in the computer software and information technology industry which has its own scheme sponsored by the DTI under the name TickIT.

American industry watchdogs have formally requested permission to adapt the British TickIT quality guide to their requirements. Canada, Singapore, Sweden and Ireland are among 47 other countries which have expressed interest in following their example.

In total, over 21,000 copies of the guide have been distributed. John Slater, the principal consultant at Logica and TickIT project leader, says the scheme is "buzzing around the world".

There are two main features of TickIT. The first is that its terminology relates specifically to the jargon used by the software industry. The second is that all auditors are trained in information technology and have to be vetted by the British Computer Society and the Institute of Quality Assurance.

Since TickIT's launch in June 1991 four bodies have been authorised as assessors in this field. The scheme has its own certification process and 130 companies have acquired certificates.

Next on the horizon is a full awareness programme which was launched by Michael Heseltine, the trade and industry secretary, in November. This includes a new award sponsored by IBM UK.

The first trophies will be presented next April to companies which, having already obtained their TickIT certificates, can demonstrate the "highest level of commitment to quality in [their] products and services".

"The primary aim of these awards is to demonstrate the extensive commercial benefits which stand to be realised from the application of quality management techniques," Mr Heseltine says.



Putting tackle to the test at sea: the British Steel Challenge 1992 round-the-world yacht race

Never mind the width

From January 1, 1993, the British Quality Association (BQA) is suspending operations in favour of a new organisation — the British Quality Foundation, Norman Laking writes.

The BQF was created as a response to a DTI committee's recommendation that a new quality award, perhaps with the name "The Prime Minister's Award for Total Quality", be established. The DTI committee, headed by Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of ICI, presented its report in August. It said the award scheme should be run by an independent body, able to demonstrate the involvement and support of the business community at a senior level.

The BQA, which has organised the highly successful British Quality Awards since 1984, was seen as the natural candidate to run the award scheme. However, as part of the Institute of Quality Assurance, it could not be seen as a body independent of other interests.

Following a DTI recommendation, a new body will recognise quality in business through awards

The BQF will be a totally independent organisation — though it will subsume and extend the BQA's activities. Harvey Spindler, currently director of the BQA, explains the aims and objectives of the new body:

"The BQF will build on the reputation and expertise of the existing BQA members," he says. "We will harness their energy to drive the practice of quality into all areas of business — public and private sectors, large and small organisations. We expect to develop training packages, seminars and tools to identify and promote best practice in total quality. At the same time, the

new organisation will support the sector committees which so successfully promoted quality among BQA members.

"Naturally, we hope and expect that the BQF will be invited to run the new award scheme. We would plan to develop it using the European Quality Award methodology and criteria as a model."

The "Prime Minister's Award" would be run to the same rigorous standards, but have a different character. One development will be the use of the award criteria both as components in training packages and as a means of self-assessment by individual businesses. By this means, the

award scheme can develop total quality management throughout the UK economy."

The Henderson committee recommended that business pays for this new award. Currently, the BQF is in discussion with a number of firms who may form the award sponsorship committee. Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, supports this initiative.

"Properly run, an award along the lines envisaged by the Henderson committee could give a major impetus to the spread of the concept of total quality in this country," he says. "I very much hope that business will help get this initiative up and running."

The BQA was formed in 1981 as an association of UK-based companies and organisations from both private and public sectors which recognise quality to be a vital factor in the achievement of business success. Its membership includes over 1,200 organisations, including blue-chip firms like BP, ICI and GEC. The list of past award winners reads like a "Who's who" of leading companies and includes such names as IBM, Plessey, Rank Xerox, JCB, Ford, Schweppes, Sony, British Steel, Lucas and John Laiting.

Winners of the 1992 awards, presented last month in London by Michael Heseltine, were Short Brothers, "for implementing Total Quality in products and processes involving all employees and achieving a significant change in culture, resulting in continuous improvement and increased customer satisfaction", and Rover Group, Small and Medium Cars, "for the significant and consistent progress made over the last four years in product quality, efficiency and the people involvement, particularly against such a severe economic climate".

BQF

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THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1992

FOCUS

QUALITY ASSURANCE 17

Public must make charters work

Patricia Tisdall looks at a year-old government initiative to improve quality of service in the public sector

Since they were launched last year by the prime minister, the citizen's charters have tried to tackle the challenge of improving quality from a different standpoint.

The charters are intended to complement the British Standard 5750 but while BS 5750 mainly affects dealings between one business and another, the citizen's charters work from the users' point of view.

The charters spell out the standards of service people can expect to receive and the remedy if standards are not met. They are aimed specifically at public services, including the privatised utilities, and the government says they are already bringing improvements.

Monitoring, the theory runs, is no longer up to an external regulator. The only third party scrutiny is by the users—in this case, the public. The methods by which high quality of service is achieved are left to the organisation concerned.

Backed by extensive public-

ty which invites the general public to monitor results, the charters operate much more quickly than the auditing used for BS 5750 certification. Already more than 28 charters covering services such as schools, hospitals, tax offices, benefit offices, the police, courts, post offices, roads and rail services have come into operation.

The scheme claims reductions in hospital waiting lists, publication of comparative tables of school exam results and performance targets by British Rail.

All the charters start with standards, which, often for the first time, require services to set them-

selves explicit targets. Data on actual performance against these standards are published.

Four other key principles are described under the headings of: information and openness, choice and consultation, courtesy and helpfulness, putting things right, and value for money.

The charters are proving popular. Distribution of a summary of the patient's char-



John Major talks back: the prime minister taking questions on the citizen's charter from members of the public in his own constituency of Huntingdon



Sir James Blyth of Boots

ter resulted in over 900,000 requests for the longer version.

From next April health authorities are required to publish reports on the performance of individual local hospital and ambulance services.

Rather confusingly, the citizen's charters have a separate logo from the crown and tick used by BS 5750 accredited companies. They also have their own awards structure,

with an advisory panel chaired by Sir James Blyth, chief executive of Boots, which selects up to 50 winners each year.

The first 36, selected from almost 300 which applied, were presented with trophies in London in September. All are entitled to use the charter mark logo on stationery and publicity material for three years.

The winners include small organisations such as individual schools and leisure complexes as well as giants such as South Western Electricity.

Each was able to demonstrate measurable improvements in quality of service during the last two years. In addition the winners had to show plans to introduce at least one improvement which did not add to costs.

Perfect partners

A PATHFINDER of the charter method is the Management Charter Initiative (MCI). Backed partly by government funds and partly by industry, the MCI is an independent body which has operated since 1988. Its formation followed a succession of reports showing that British management education lagged behind their European and Japanese.

The MCI has produced

standards of best practice and check-lists covering the key areas of information, people, finance and operations.

These are used to identify training needs, assess individual performance and to

design job descriptions. The performance standards help organisations assess managers' competence. Managers who do not reach the standards are provided with extra training in-house or externally. The standards

produced so far cover middle and first-line managers and supervisors, and a standard for senior managements is in preparation. Case studies are being produced to show how, after less than four years, the application of

standards is helping improve management performance in a variety of different areas.

Organisations which have successfully used the MCI include the National Health Service, the vehicle licensing centre in Swansea, Vauxhall Motors, which reports fewer defects through its application to supervisors, and GKN, which cites an improved performance all round.

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HMSO Books

Total Quality Management is failing. At least, that is the case if you believe some of the knocking articles now being published across the world.

The first consideration, of course, is that it all depends on what you mean by Total Quality Management. What most of the criticism refers to is the "blitz", the hype, the razzmatazz approach which creates an almost religious fervor and not a lot else.

Total quality management (TQM) is now being used to embrace all sorts of change, and it is possible to find a complete spectrum of TQM "programmes", ranging from those which involve only a portion of the management of the organisation in a one-day event or a BS 5750 project, to a fully-integrated-into-the-business, team-driven strategy.

Examples of the latter are plentiful, but my own experience includes work in Europe with Exxon Chemical, Tetra Pak, Tioxide, Nissan, BP Chemicals, Heinz, Kodak, and at least a thousand other successful organisations.

Many other organisations have recognised the need to change the way they operate to deal with increased competition, a changing market-place, or different business or environmental rules and regulations. They perhaps want to move away from an autocratic management style with formal rules and hierarchies and narrow work demarcations. Some have tried to create teams, to delegate - perhaps for the first time - or improve communications, or even to introduce

The secret of real success

If you want to survive in the market place, keep customers happy

the quality management standard BS 5750!

Clearly, many organisations have not managed to achieve the customer focus, the internal supplier-customer quality chains, and the process management that constitutes a real total quality culture.

To make the changes necessary to establish the customer as the focal point of all processes, TQM must be properly integrated into the way the business is run.

It is only relatively recently that many senior management teams in the UK have realised that quality is a major strategic issue. International competition, particularly from Japan, has decimated many sectors of Western industry. The motor industry is a good example, but not the only one. The competitive success of the Japanese was, of course, based on offering proven quality and

reliability at the market price, and knowing customers and competitors like the back of your hand.

Any organisation, whether it is a university, newspaper, bank, manufacturer or restaurant, can have its competitiveness seriously eroded by the costs associated with failing to meet customer requirements.

This may manifest itself as people spending a lot of time correcting errors, looking for things, checking why things are late, rectifying, chasing, redoing or apologising to customers. In the UK this adds up to over £70 billion for manufacturing industry alone. Clearly, this has a serious impact on business performance.

One of the greatest tangible benefits of a proper approach to TQM, experienced by many commercial organisations, is the increased market share that results, rather than just reductions in the costs of poor quality. Simply, quality trans-

lates into premium prices and profitability.

However, the less tangible benefit of greater employee involvement is equally if not more important in the longer term. The pursuit of continual improvement must become a way of life for everyone in many more organisations if they are to succeed. It has been clear for years that consumers place a higher value on quality than on loyalty to their home-based producers; and they expect price competitiveness to go hand-in-hand with quality.

I sometimes think about what must be going through the minds of the chief executives and directors in those companies which have embraced TQM properly, when they read articles knocking quality management.

When it is suggested that the quality approach, BS 5750 or whatever, either does not work or costs too much money I can only imagine how delighted they must be at the thought of their competitors taking notice of these messages. It is reminiscent, of course, of W. Edwards Deming, one of the founding fathers of modern TQM theory, who travelled from America after the second world war to help the Japanese get their act together with regard to quality, management and competitiveness. His message now to the Western world is simple: you don't have to take the total quality approach - survival is not compulsory.

JOHN OAKLAND

● The author is Exxon Chemical Professor of TQM at Bradford University Management Centre.



John Oakland: 'Survival is not compulsory'

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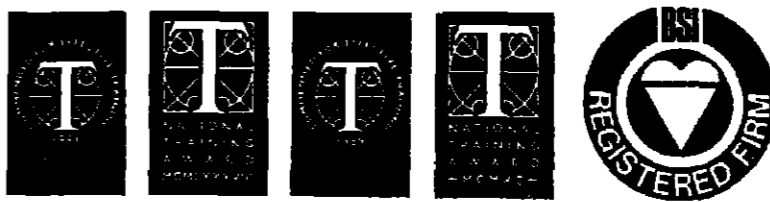
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RACING 26

Halkopous new favourite for hurdling title



ARTS 27-29

A gripping Billy Budd in Leeds



BUSINESS 32-36

Gatt chief expects trade deal by March 1993

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
Page 35

THE TIMES

2

MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1992

England player's international career on the line after flare-up at White Hart Lane

Wright may face FA action over punch

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

Ian Wright, the Arsenal forward, could face a lengthy suspension if the Football Association decides to take action against him for apparently punching David Howells, the Tottenham Hotspur midfielder, in a Premier League match at White Hart Lane on Saturday.

Any official punishment could also jeopardise Wright's England career. The FA insists that players serving domestic bans should not be considered for international selection.

Graham Taylor, the England manager, is also reluctant to pick anybody with disciplinary problems. He has stressed on numerous occasions that his players have a special responsibility to behave on and off the pitch.

Mike Wilmore, the FA public relations manager, said yesterday: "We are aware of the situation and will be having a look at the video in the next few days. Only then will we decide what action, if any, needs to be taken."

Wright, 29, became involved with Howells in the 66th minute of a keenly contested north London derby, which Tottenham won 1-0 and which produced five bookings and was littered with numerous fouls.

Howells made an innocuous challenge from behind and Wright reacted by turning and hitting him with a right hook.

Although Alf Buxsh, the referee, appeared to miss the incident, he warned both players. Howells was not injured and neither was cautioned but television evidence later showed that Wright connected with his punch and was fortunate to escape a dismissal.

Paul Davis, a clubmate of Wright's, was found guilty after trial by television four years ago. He clashed with Glenn Cockerill, the Southampton midfielder player, who received a fractured jaw.

George Graham, the

Arsenal manager, claimed he did not see the Wright-Howells flare-up. "How can I be expected to comment on something I haven't seen," he said. "I'll be looking at the film because there were a lot of things going on that I didn't like. Ian's temperament is something he's working hard on but it is difficult because he gets maximum publicity whatever he does."

Wright, who has scored 11 goals this season, hurried away from White Hart Lane after the match. "Everyone is always having a go at me just for the sake of it," he said.

Ray Wilkins and Alan Hansen have called for Wright to calm his impetuosity. "There is no place in the sport for what he did," Hansen, the former Liverpool and Scotland defender, said. "He's got to control his temper or he's going to get into big trouble."

Wilkins, a fellow BBC football analyst, and now captain of Queens Park Rangers, said: "What he did was unacceptable. He's got to sort himself out."

Wright has won five full England caps but has yet to score a goal for his country. He joined Arsenal from Crystal Palace for £2.5 million last year and is no stranger to controversy.

He was fined £1,500 by the FA in January following a fixture at Oldham Athletic. He was alleged to have spat at an Oldham supporter.

Wright has also been pictured apparently aiming an elbow at Scott Fitzgerald, the Wimbledon defender, in the 3-2 defeat at Selhurst Park in September. Ken Monkou, the Southampton centre back, also accused him of "intimidation" when Arsenal lost 2-0 at The Dell just over a week ago.

Arsenal have collected 34 bookings this season, including 26 in the Premier League, but have yet to have a player sent off.

Allen's goal decisive, page 23



Flash-point: Wright lashes out at Howells during Arsenal's match against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Saturday

Lewis's hopes starting to fade

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX Lewis's hopes of persuading Riddick Bowe, the world heavyweight boxing champion, to defend his title against him, as has been ordered by the World Boxing Council (WBC), appear to be fading.

Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, said on Saturday that he had agreed terms to make two defences for HBO, the American cable television company, after Lewis's negotiating team had rejected an offer of \$3 million.

Lewis, who subsequently agreed to box for \$3 million, claims that he has been turned down again by Newman. Lewis is becoming resigned to winning the WBC title by default, and has been thinking of making his first defence against Alex Stewart, a Londoner boxing out of New York, who has been stopped by Mike Tyson.

Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, said: "We are fed up with chasing someone who doesn't want to fight us and is degrading the title. Everybody knows Bowe signed an agreement to meet Lennox. He can't go on running forever. The way Bowe is going, one day he'll end up losing the title for not much money."

In desperation, Maloney has taken to parading a man dressed in a chicken costume and introducing him as Riddick Bowe, the world champion, at his boxing shows.

However, so many discussions have been going on at press conferences in New York and London since Bowe won the title, in November, that there seem to be some cross-connections in the lines of communication.

Bowe, in London to present the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award, said yesterday: "It's not me who's chicken; I'll fight him anytime." Newman is expected to make a statement today at a press conference in London.

Benn takes time, page 24

Whitakers lead way in Paris

JOHN Whitaker and his brother, Michael, took the leading two places in the show-jumping grand prix at the Paris Porte de Versailles Show yesterday.

John, on Henderson Milton, captured a £20,000 prize when he led Michael, on Midnight Madness, home in the timed jump off. He also picked up a £35,000 Renault car as top rider in the show's three event challenge.

Michael's second place, after he brought down a fence in beating his brother's time, was worth around £14,000. He also finished third in the top rider series.

Michael's wife, Veronique, was one of three British riders out of luck in the Volvo World Cup qualifier in Geneva. She just failed to get into a jump-off contested by 18 when she had a fence down on Fol Amour.

The event was won by Philippe le Jeune, of Belgium, on Roby Foulard's Shogun.

TV incriminated Davis

PAUL Davis, the Arsenal midfielder, received a record nine-match suspension and was fined £3,000 by the Football Association in football's first trial-by-television case four years ago.

Davis was charged with bringing the game into disrepute after an incident with Glenn Cockerill, the Southampton midfielder player, in a first division match in September 1988. Cockerill suffered a broken jaw.

Although Davis was not booked, filmed evidence was

called for and used against him by the FA. Davis, 31, a former England B international, has not played for Arsenal this season because of long-term injury.

George Graham has had to contend with a catalogue of disciplinary problems in his six-year spell as Arsenal manager. Tony Adams, the England central defender, was jailed for drink-driving two years ago and Kevin Campbell was banned and fined £1,800 for a similar offence a week ago.

Liverpool spoil Dalglish's return to his spiritual home

Liverpool 2
Blackburn Rovers 1

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE was no room for sentimentality at Anfield yesterday as Kenny Dalglish returned to his spiritual home for the first time in an official capacity. There was little room for anything else until Mark Walters scored the first of his two goals in a vibrant closing quarter of an hour.

Before being greeted by the largest crowd of the Premier League season, Dalglish, the

Blackburn Rovers manager, lounged in the foyer of a ground that had been his work place for 14 years. There, in contrast to the gaunt figure who left tearfully 22 months ago, he was relaxed and jocular.

As well as reacquainting himself with familiar friends, he was content because he had moulded a side capable of celebrating the emotional occasion in the manner he would most welcome. The smothering tactics were designed specifically to gain points, not to provide spurious entertainment.

Dalglish's initial appear-

ance provoked a predictably rapturous reception from the 43,668 spectators. He responded with a brief wave before dipping out of view. "They were always very generous to me when I was here as a player and as a manager," he said. "Today, they carried that on."

Blackburn were so collectively alert and industrious that the first half, a ragged and disjointed affair, featured only one genuine opening for Liverpool. It was fashioned by Barnes on the only occasion he was able to escape from his oppressive guards but Rosenthal wasted the cross.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	19	12	3	4	34	22	36
Arsenal	18	9	7	3	30	20	34
Manchester City	18	8	4	2	13	33	33
Chelsea	18	8	5	5	26	20	32
Blackburn	18	8	7	4	29	17	31
Sheff Wed	18	8	11	2	22	27	29
QPR	18	8	5	6	26	22	29
Sheff Sat	18	8	2	8	28	29	28
Arsenal	18	8	2	8	28	29	28
Liverpool	18	8	4	7	39	27	28

The Times table, page 23

"They worked hard, they are aggressive and they are difficult to beat," Graeme Souness said of the side built by the money of Jack Walker and by the astute brain of his former colleague, Dalglish.

"After last weekend, though, I would have been disappointed if we hadn't got anything out of this."

He effectively turned the game by sending on Walters midway through the second half. By then, Blackburn, having frustrated their opponents, were beginning to dismantle them. Shearer, Newell, Cowans and Wilcox all threatened to beat Hooper before Newell did so and struck an upright.

The arrival of Walters allowed Barnes to wander into a more liberating central role, where he had been so effective in the closing stages of the Merseyside derby a week ago.

Liverpool took the lead then and repeated the feat in the 77th minute with a strike of stunning quality.

Walters cut inside a tiring May and unleashed a drive that he later described as the best goal of his career at Anfield. The equaliser was, if anything, even better. Shearer hooked the ball spectacularly over his shoulder to claim his twentieth goal of the season.

"We knew we'd let one in as soon as we'd gone ahead," Souness said in jest. Although his young side yielded two against Everton, they showed admirable character to claim a winner against Blackburn,

completing an extraordinary nine minutes and spoiling Dalglish's day.

McManaman at last managed to thread a low cross beyond the far post, where Walters was lurking. He swept in only the seventeenth goal to be conceded so far by Blackburn.

They remain fifth, a position that will satisfy Dalglish at the end of the inaugural Premier League season.

LIVERPOOL: M. Hooper, M. Mann, M. Wright, S. Nicol, T. Pecherik, R. Rosenthal, S. McManaman, J. Redknapp, I. Rush, R. Barnes, R. Jones.
BLACKBURN ROVERS: R. Mimmie, D. May, A. Wright, M. Adams, C. Hendry, K. Moran, T. Sheppard, G. Cowans, A. Shearer, M. Howard, J. Wilcox.
Referee: P. Don.

Unlike the stamp on the left, this is not a valuable misprint.

From the collection of the American philatelist Major Starr, "major star" would certainly be an apt description of this fine and sought-after misprint. Particularly since it was sold at Sotheby's for twice its pre-sale estimate.

If you have any interesting postage stamps which you might like to include in our next sale, please contact us on the number opposite without delay.



Fine black and blue, centre inverted Peking Printing stamp. Sold by Sotheby's for £13,310.

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Stich cashes in on return to form with \$2 million haul

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: P Sempras (US) bt H Lacorte (Frl), 7-6, 8-6. M Stich (Ger) bt R Krajcek (Holl), 7-6, 7-5. Semi-finals: M Chang (US) bt G Ivanovic (Croatia), 6-7, 6-2, 8-4, 3-6, 6-3; Stich bt Sempras, 7-6, 7-6, 3-6, 7-6. Final: Stich bt Chang, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

□ Britain were beaten 2-1 by Sweden, the top seeds, in the semi-finals of the European team championship in Trieste, Italy, on Saturday.



midway through the second period, when the Devils were two men short. David Longstaff, Whitley's man of the match, scored on the resultant power play. But then came Chinn's intervention, as well as a fine goal by Ian Cooper, and the Devils were on their way. Another local youngster, Jason Stone, started the rout in the third period, but the sweetest goal of all was the second for Hilton Ruggles. Ruggles, who used to play

for Whitley, said that was no surprise when the legality of his stick was challenged by the Warriors midway through the final period. The challenge was unsuccessful. Whitley were a man short as a result and Ruggles scored with the stick in question 28 seconds later. "It is my first major trophy and it was good to win it against the Warriors," Ruggles said.

SCORES: Cardiff: N. Quinn (3), S. Gabetta (2), H. Ruppin (2); J. Steele; L. Corbett; D. Jones; C. Williams; T. Roddy; C. Hughes; A. Jones (4).

Her team-mate, Katrin Gutensohn, was second in 1:42.80 and the Olympic champion, Kerrin Lee-Gartner, of Canada, third in 1:42.93. In all, five Germans won places in the top 10.

RESULTS: Women's downhill race: Switzerland, 1. M. Vogt (Ger) 1:42.80, 2. K. Lee-Gartner (Can) 1:42.93, 3. M. Hoesner (Ger) 1:43.40, 4. M. Hoesner (Ger) 1:43.69, 5. H. Lindl (Aust) 1:43.87, 6. M. Hoesner (Ger) 1:43.98, 7. B. Sadleir (Aust) 1:44.23, 8. U. Stangassinger (Ger) 1:43.47, 10. H. Zurbriggen (Switz) 1:43.58. World Cup: Overall, 1. P. Widmer Schuster, 23pts.; 2. A. Wachtler (Austria), 205; 3. W. Voigt, 155; 4. A. Wachtler, 142; 140, 5. M. Meier (Austria), 136; 6. J. Prost (Austria), 134.

British Coal International						
FRANCE	18	WALES	19			
Sons Bitter Championship						
LSGH	31	MULL KR	24			
HEFIELD	31	LEEDS	14			
Goals: Trics: Plunge (2), Price (2), Jack Sheaf: Aston (5) Dropped goal: Aston Sheaf: Harely (3) Maceford Goal: Iv At: 4,000.						
WATERFORD 30 BRADFORD 16						
Goals: Trics: Mason (2), Wilson Bagnall, James Goals: Benson (5) Bradford: Trics: Sheaf, Summers McCowan Goals: Murchant (2) At: 4,500.						
	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Wigan	11	9	0	1	320	18
Hull	12	8	0	2	364	15
Wolves	12	8	0	2	286	14

to produce a French try for Gilles Dumas, the captain. They replied within five minutes and two more tries, a 100 per cent conversion rate from Gary Pearce and a dropped goal was an ample cushion.

The Welsh tries were all products of excellent approach work, with John Devereux and Kevin Ellis closely involved throughout. Paul Moriarty and David Young in the pack were instrumental in laying the foundations for

Wales's first visit to France for nearly 12 years provided their first victory there since 1970 and encouragement for the national squad's future. Wales coped well with the early shock of Phil Ford's clearance being charged down

LEEDS plunged into deeper trouble as the Sheffield Eagles scored their first win over their Yorkshire rivals, 31-14.

In the eighth minute Gibson and Innes combined for Hanley to score the opening try for Leeds but Sheffield were level when Plange raced away to touch down and Mark Aston converted.

Then Jack, the Australian international, weaved through slack Leeds tackling for a try. Aston again added the going

2-1 in Tokyo yesterday to win the world club championship. Rai scored twice after Hristo Stoitchkov had put Barcelona ahead. (Agencies)

Steve McCarthy, the former British light-heavyweight champion, has been suspended for three months and fined £1,000 by the British Boxing Board of Control. McCarthy was disqualified in the third round of a bout with Dariusz Michalczski in Hamburg on September 29.

Following reports from the German federation, the Southampton boxer will also be banned from taking part in contests abroad *sine die*.

• Billy Schwer, the British

Rowing: Ron Needs, the new chief coach to the British women's squad, honoured his duties as coach to the Cambridge University women's blue boat and was at their trial races this weekend. Floodwater caused a switch of venue from Henley to Ely and the embryo boat race crew out-paced their lightweight and reserves over several minutes.

BLUE BOAT: E Wright (Hornets), W Wamer (St John's), R Kelly (St John's), C Warrington (Leamington), C Bennett (Leamington), R McGrath (Rugby), C Glendon (St John's), P Graham (Queens), and R Smith (St John's).

Younger blood

Olympic Games: William Daume, 79, who took the Olympic Games to Munich in

the country's National Olympic Committee. He was replaced by 63-year-old Walter Troeger, the committee's general secretary.

Back on track

Speed skating: The British team of Matt Jasper, James Fearn, Nicky Gooch and Jamie O'Reilly retained the European short track championship in Sweden yesterday.

On the up

Climbing: France took the top two places in the men's World Cup finals at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, through Jean Baptiste Triboulet and François Petit.

Hong Kong: Rodney Martin, from Australia, won his second Hong Kong Open title with a 12-15, 15-13, 15-14, 15-9 victory over his compatriot, Chris Dittmar, the top seed, yesterday.

Martin, the No. 2 seed and champion in 1986 before Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, began a run of five successive triumphs, put the loss of the first game behind him to win in impressive fashion. Dittmar, in his fourth Hong Kong Open final, was always under pressure from the former world champion, who displayed tremendous touch at the front of the court.

The match turned on the final point of the third game.

when Martin bravely elected to play straight out at 14-14. He won the point with a fierce drive and a tired and despondent Dittmar put up only token resistance in the fourth game.

"Everything seems to have clicked for me this week," Martin said. "I've felt good and really keen to play. I was hitting the ball crisply today and managed to control the centre of the court."

Dittmar was shattered by the loss to his great rival. "Even after I won the first game I never felt on top," he said. "I had me under too much pressure all the time. I couldn't get him from the front of the court." (*Editor's note:*

Barnsley
band as
squande



If Fry was a stick of rock, it would say "football" all the way through. Everyone in football has a Fry story. Manager of Barnet for 14 years. Remortgaged his house to help the club. Once signed George Best for Dunstable shortly after Best's first and most dramatic fall from grace, revealing an unfading instinct for publicity, chutzpah, football and footballing compassion.

My own favourite Fry story goes

Fry was sacked last spring, during the play-offs, and was reinstated. He was sacked again a fortnight ago, for telling the press that the chairman should leave the club. Banned from home games, Fry turned up at last Saturday's game — away, Halifax 1, Barnet 2 — watched from the terraces, and was, inevitably, lifted shoulder high by fans.

Players wanted to stage a bring-

Instead Fry was back. Football's favourite hobbist had been unmasked yet again. Cap over his eyes, arms aloft to the crowd, three points, a lot of running up the touchline in celebration, hugs and high-fives, top-top-top, the end, in the end, a few comments to the press. "I think it would be better if the chairman sold his controlling interest in Barnet Football Club."

No doubt Fry will be asked again this week, and perhaps unmasked in time for Saturday's game. "When he seeks me, I don't

It was a nice story at the time. A ticket tout is one who sees sport as a commodity, and heart-and-soul devotion to sport as something to exploit. A tout is sport's cynic, one who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. To a tout, *"The fans and the fans are mugs."* "The Barnet fans don't matter," Flashman once said. Fry and Flashman are at opposite poles of sport: one all passion, the other all calculation. The tout has no heart.

But Flashman swooped in, bought up Barnet—hardly the act of a classy bottom-line businessman.

And so carrion crows came to roost on the dreams of the Eighties, at Barnet as elsewhere. Rows over players' wages. A £50,000 fine by the Football League over accounting irregularities. The chairman whacking a photographer or two. Now the tax people are investigating matters after visits to Underhill, the club's accountants and Flashman's home in Tottenham.

Many a dream of the Eighties has perished in such circumstances. "I have discussed the

to say, there are various local "consortiums" keen to buy into the club, eager for a knockdown price and a taste of glory. "My consortium would turn Underhill into a seven-day fun palace for all the residents of Barnet," one consortium person said.

Meanwhile, Flashman remains indisposed behind the walls of his own Tudor fun palace. Fry continues to manage: "I reckon to last till next Wednesday, anyway." And Barnet continue to "oust" all the odds — to play football.

Rather a good game, actually.

BY PETER BALL

Not everyone was convinced. Paul Ince said: "It's all very well doing the flicks when you are winning, but when you are losing it's more important to have someone to put their foot in."

time he buried it.
MANCHESTER UNITED: P Schmeichel; P
 Parker, D Irwin, S Bruce, L Sharpe, G
 Pallister, E Cantona, P Ince, B McClair, M
 Hughes, R Gigg.
NORWICH CITY: B Gunn; I Culverhouse, M
 Bowen, I Butterworth, J Poleton, D Sutcliffe,
 J Crook (sub: G Megson), D Beekford (sub: C
 Sutton), M Robins, R Fox, D Phillips.
 Referee: R Milford.

Loftus lament: Alan MacDon-
ald that allowed Crystal Palace
McGoldrick scored twice af-

Nald, of Queens Park Rangers
to come from behind and win
er Rangers had wasted a hat-

...ruled the lost opportunities
...3-1 at Loftus Road. Eddie
...of chances in the first half

Having declined several invitations to open the scoring, Leeds finally exploited the generosity of the Wednesday defence in the 32nd minute.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: C Woods, Nelson, N Worthington, C Palmer, Pearson, P Warhurst, J Harkes, C Wood (sub: C Bart-Williams), D Hirst, M Bright, Sheridan.

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

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BY LAN ROSS

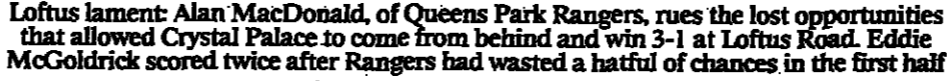
Having declined several invitations to open the scoring, Leeds finally exploited the generosity of the Wednesday defence in the 32nd minute.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: C Woods, Nilsson, N Worthington, C Palmer, Pearson, P Warhurst, J Harkes, C Wood (sub: C Bart-Williams), D Hirst, M Bright, Shenden, J Bennett.

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Rovers do Allison proud

Watford and Charlton let themselves down

Walters steps in to supply perfect finish

Walters's first goal was maybe one of the best moments he will ever know, and the second, from close-in, was the kind that can so easily be missed. It was an ear-splitting climax.

Aston Villa capitalise on defensive deficiencies

Allen splits feuding factions

ARSenal: D Seaman, P Lyderzen, Winterburn, D Hillier, S Bould, A Adams, Janson (sub: A Umpan), I Wright, Campbell, P Merson, R ParLOUR.
Referee: A Bulch.

Patience rewarded as Stoke's run continues

By Keith Blackmore

Rochdale took them to the top of the third division as York City could only draw at home to Chesterfield. Shrewsbury Town moved into third place by beating Gillingham 2-1, a result which sent the Kent club to the bottom of the league.

TRANSFERS: Bontcho Guentchev (Ipswich) from Sporting Lisbon, fee undisclosed; Andrew Scott (Sheffield Utd) from Sutton United, undisclosed. **LOANS:** Paul Moody (Southampton) to Reading; Alan Dickens (Chelsea) to West Bromwich Albion; Zaka Rowe (Chelsea) to Woking. ☐ Statistics refer to Premier League matches only

Murphy remains optimistic over Ireland's revival

BY BRYAN STILES

SCORES: Irish (unles): Try: Vining (Dunne), J. McGee (Dunne), P. Penalty goals: Corcoran (2), Ulster: Try: Harbison Conversion: Russell Dropped goal: Russell Penalty goals: Russell (2).

EXILES (London Irish unless stated): J. Staples: S. Georgehan, D. Dooley (Saracens), D. Quirta, M. Corcoran, S. Walters (London Irish), J. Devlin (Saracens), M. McFarlane, G. Halpin, D. Cleary (Ormeau), J. Ethenedge (Northampton), M. Keenan, D. Kelly (Manchester), A. Vining.

ULSTER: C. Willinson (Malone); R. Carry (Dunne), W. Harbison (Malone), M. Field (Malone), T. Howe (Dunne); P. Penalty goals: D. Quirta (Dunne), S. Walters (Saracens); D. Elliot (Bangor), S. Smith (Ballymena), G. Bell (Rosthern), S. McKinlay (Bangor), P. Johns (Dunne), D. Tweed (Ballymena), D. McBride (Malone), S. Robinson (London Irish); rep: G. Longwell, S. O'Connell.

Referee: D. Martin (Kinsale).



Results and table, page 24

South earn right to face New Zealand

BY ALAN LORIMER

[illegible]

Jones paves way for Llanelli's expansive display

By GERALD DAVIES

Wales stand-off, opened proceedings prosaically with a penalty. Llanelli began and ended with a try-scoring flourish. The first, which Stephens began in his own half, had Phil Davies, Gary Jones and Moon handling before the stand-off went over for the score. These players, as well as Lyn Jones and Huw Williams, were involved in an even longer movement which ended with Proctor touching down late in the second half.

Walker paces Cardiff's scoring spree

his season's tally to 18. His fellow wing, Simon Hill, added three tries while Adrian Davies, the stand-off half, chipped in with a try and three conversions, taking his league total to 177, passing Neil Jenkins's record. Swansea had their stand-off half, Aled Williams, to thank for their 28-0 victory at Newbridge. After notching the only points, a penalty, of the first half, Williams hoisted his tally to 23 with two tries.

two conversions and two more penalties. David Roberts, Newbridge's flanker, was sent off for stamping.

Mark Pugh, the South Wales Police prop, was sent off for fighting in his side's 35-5 defeat by Bridgend. Mark Rowley, the Pontypridd lock, was dismissed for a dangerous tackle on James Reynolds in his team's 28-15 loss at Neath, while Chris Morris, the Penarth prop, was sent off for fighting during the 16-8 defeat by Llandovery.

Kennard's poise steadies Somerset's challenge

By RABBY TROWBRIDGE

Virtually from the restart, Shepherd opened up the Somerset defence with a searing run which sent Brotherton in for a try and suddenly every-

SCORES: Somerset: Try: Bradon. Penalty goals: Kennard (2). Dropped goal: Pritchard. Yorkshire: Try: Brotherton. Conversion: Hall.
SOMERSET: S Kennard (Bath); S Faraday (Bath), D May (Bristol), J Read (Bath), J Jones (Frome). C Pritchard (Old Culverhaysians), L Hiron (Bath); N Temperley (Bristol), K McCormack (Bath), N McCarthy (Bath), S Cockle (Keynsham), H Williams (Bath; RFC: A Veal, Keynsham); S

Wrestling (Bristol), T. P. Wells (Newmarket), J.
 Barclay (Bristol), R. Bredon (Taunton), J.
 Hesley (Hutchinsons Aloysians and Bath).
 YORKSHIRE: J. Naylor (Old Crosswensley),
 M. Rockswold (West Park Bramhope), J. Mell
 (Doncaster), J. Shepherd (Morley), J. Scales
 (Otley), C. Johnson (Morley), A. Hall
 (Thorncliffe): C. Baldwin (Otley), S.
 Kneale (Morley), A. Field (Otley), S.
 Brotherton (Leeds), N. Hewison (Hull, rep.
 M. Mills, Selby), A. Ludman (Harrogate), K.
 Yates (Otley), B. Naylor (Hull).
 Referee: N. Cousins (London).

Nicol inspires North to surprise victory

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

The Exiles fielded seven Scotland squad members compared to the three for

SCOTTISH EGLES (London Scottish unless stated): M Appleton; M Sty, F Harrold, R MacNaughton (Northampton), D Caskie (Gloucester); R Cramp, D Millard, A Sharp (Exeter); rep: P Mitchell, Mosley; L Mair, P Burnell, N Provan, D Cronin, A Reed (Bath), I Dickson, C Brown.

burgh Academicals); M Cousins (Dundee HSF); P Rouse (Dundee HSF); R Shepherd (Edinburgh Academicals); F Swanson (Edinburgh Academicals); B Esson (Dundee HSF); A Nicol (Dundee HSF); J Manson (Dundee HSF; rep: W Anderson, Kircaldy); M Scott (Edinburgh Academicals); D Herrington (Dundee HSF); D McIvor (Edinburgh Academicals); S Campbell (Dundee HSF); B Bell (Highlands); D Mitchell (Dumfries); J Mathison (Morgan Academy FF).
Referee: C Muir (Langholm).

ARTS

THEATRE page 29

Lope de Vega, the Spanish Shakespeare, is knocking at the Gate this week

With a little help from their friends

Time

LONDON

BARBERS: Paul Nicholas walks the tightrope in a Christmas revival of the Cy Coleman musical. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-476 8843). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm, opens Thurs, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 2pm.

MADAMA BUTTERFLY: The Royal Opera gives the penultimate performance of Nurei Rostkovsky's 1987 Scottish Opera staging of Puccini's opera. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-476 8843). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm, opens Thurs, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 2pm.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC: The orchestra and conductor conduct the orchestra and LP Ojai in Handel's great oratorio Messiah, featuring an impressive lineup of soloists: Felicity Lott, Bernard Parker, James, John Mark Ainsley and Jeffrey Black. The concert is repeated tomorrow (note the earlier than usual start time). The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-476 8843). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm, opens Thurs, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 2pm.

BEVERLEY CRABBE: Since winning the Best British Newcomer Award, the singer-songwriter has climbed high in the charts with her sophisticated, if predictable, love songs. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-476 8843). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm, opens Thurs, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 2pm.

LONDON CITY BALLET: The American ballet of Barbara Allen, combining romance, tragedy and superstition, is the inspiration for Jack

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

Central: The West End, the highlight of the company's move to the second week of its annual season. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-476 8843). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm, opens Thurs, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 2pm.

GEORGE KELLY: The good-humoured jazz singer takes up his annual Christmas residency in his partnership with John Chilton's Feetwarmers. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-476 8843). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm, opens Thurs, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 2pm.

SAMUEL PALMER: The British Museum has an unrivalled collection of prints by Palmer, as well as related drawings and some original plates. Included in this show are all his prints, which continue to follow the visionary course right to the end of his long life. The occasion is the presentation to the museum of preparatory drawings for Palmer's illustrations to his own translation of Virgil's *Aeneid*, which are all on show, along with a newly attributed manuscript. The British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (01-638 1555). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 2.30pm-5pm, Sun, 12pm-5pm.

BRITISH MUSEUM: Great Russell Street, WC1 (01-638 1555). Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 2.30pm-5pm, Sun, 12pm-5pm.

REGIONAL: **BRISTOL:** The American ballet of Barbara Allen, combining romance, tragedy and superstition, is the inspiration for Jack

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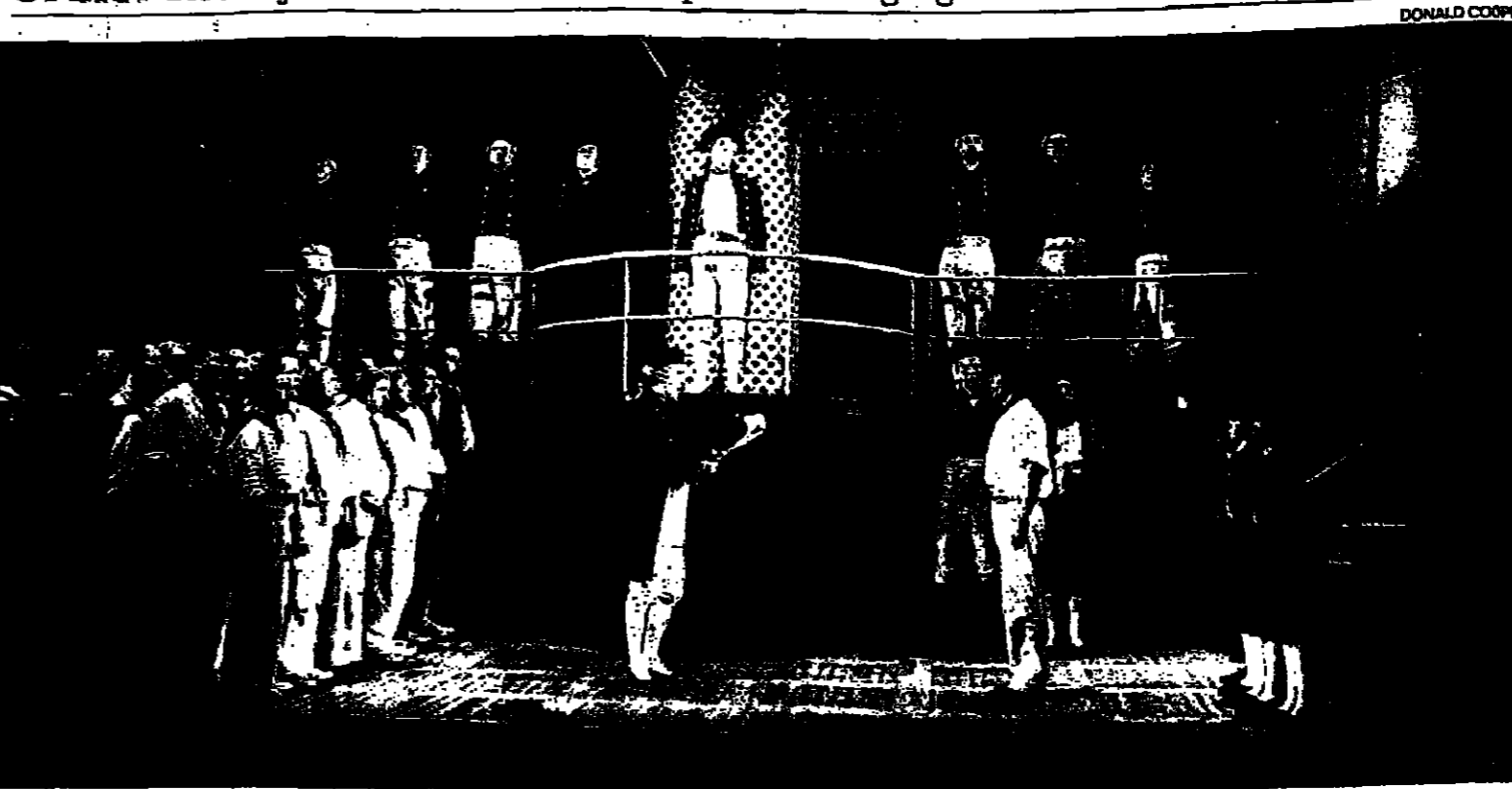
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OPERA: Rodney Milnes recommends a powerful staging of Britten's most harrowing work



Relentlessly gripping: Graham Vick's staging of *Billy Budd*, in an ingenious multi-level set by Chris Dyer, is among his very best work

Swept along on a tide of strife at sea

THE better a performance of Britten's *Billy Budd*—and I have seen few more powerful than last Friday's by Opera North—the more near-intolerably harrowing it is. In no way can it be described as an enjoyable evening in the theatre, any more than can *Leah* or *Sophocles' Electra*. It offers not a glimmer of hope, at least not to those who see all that talk of Captain Vere's eventual redemption as mere window dressing, yet to the strong-stomached I cannot recommend too fervently the performances in Leeds, Nottingham, Birmingham and Manchester over the next two months.

Graham Vick's staging, made for Scottish Opera in 1985 with Opera North as co-producers, is among his very best work. The world he creates in Chris Dyer's ingenious, four-level metal set is a steely and apt amalgam of a prison, a man-o-war and one of the

raunchier public schools from the fiction of Simon Raven. The homoerotic element is not skipped, but it is only part of what seems to be Vick's larger purpose, to recreate in microcosm the sort of society that could give birth to the opera, a society shot through with class, repression and institutionalised cruelty.

The intrusion of healthy normality into such a world—postwar England, I mean, not just Aldeburgh—is so fundamental a challenge that it can only be met by destroying the intruder, which requires so much less effort than confronting the crisis. There can be no more telling study of the perennial English vice of avoiding issues, except perhaps for *Brideshead Revisited*. Britten's part in it is wily and understandable in the light of the Carpenter

TELEVISION REVIEW: With the benefit of hindsight, Joe Joseph enjoys the Royal Variety Performance

MANY people find the Royal Variety Performance even less appealing than one of those contrived compilation double albums that assemble the world's "40 greatest love ballads that begin with the word Caribou".

But those who switched channels when the hoopla began on BBC 1 last Saturday night missed an evening of true theatre. It was real drama in the sense that we, the TV audience, now knew what they, the performers and those who watched the show live at London's Dominion Theatre last Monday night, did not that within two days the Prince and Princess of Wales, who were gracing the Royal Variety Performance for the first time, would effectively announce that it would probably also be their last.

As a result, all those in-jokes from the stage about the Royal Family's *annus horribilis* and all those winks and nudges towards the Royal Box (Nigel Kennedy gave them a thumbs-up, for heaven's sake) gained a spice that could only be tasted by TV audiences.

Thus, whereas the live audience smiled when Jimmy Tarbuck (was there an era when people actually laughed at Tarbuck?) cracked a string of Royal jokes that began with "Good evening ladies, gentlemen and future taxpayers" and got worse after that, we at home last Saturday just winced.

CONCERT: Stephen Pettiit on a magnificent evening of Sibelius in the Tender is the North festival

JUDGING from colleagues' accounts, previous concerts in Sir Colin Davis's Sibelius cycle with the London Symphony Orchestra had been quite special. So was this one. Davis never gives a bad concert in any case, but in Sibelius's music, as in Mozart's, he particularly excels.

Here he ended the evening with Sibelius's Seventh Symphony, that awesome, single-breath work from 1924 whose complexities lesser hands can so easily fragment. This was a beautifully moulded performance in a great process of gradual unfolding everything grew naturally from every-

thing else, exactly as the composer intended.

There is a strong temptation to think of the piece as an image of some northern landscape, with brass evoking the grandiose vastness of the terrain, strings describing its natural beauty, woodwind outlining sharper details. But this music is as internal as it is external, its epic nature reflecting the achievements

and aspirations of humankind.

Davis engineered appropriately rich textures, though to those essential elements, clarity of overall form and internal balance, he also gave his usual meticulous attention, as earlier he had with the two appetite-whetters, *Pohjola's Daughter* and *The Swan of Tuonela*.

SUBTLE: Stephen Pettiit on a magnificent evening of Sibelius in the Tender is the North festival

ny concert was Gidon Kremer's offering of Sibelius's Violin Concerto. Even for him, this must surely have been the performance of a lifetime. Never before has the work's rhythmic aspects been made so lucid. Though Kremer did not labour the point, structure of phrase became, for once in this still elusive work, absolutely clear. Kremer's artistry reacted its peak in the finale. No fleeting harmonic held the slightest terror for him. Every note was hit in the middle, every colour was polished, and every movement was charged with a spontaneity that served music before violinist.

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THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1992

ARTS 29

Time for little Felix to grow up



French entry which came away with three prizes from the European Film Awards in Berlin: Leos Carax's flamboyant hymn to Paris and punk love, *Les Amants du Pont Neuf*

Things have come to a pretty pass when the president of the final jury at the fifth European Film Awards is reported as saying "I don't think European cinema exists." Luckily the French producer Margaret Ménégoz, quoted in the British trade paper *Screen International*, promptly modified her words. "Trees don't exist," she continued. "You have apple trees, cherry trees. And I think European cinema is the same. You will always have French films, German films and Italian films, and so on."

Not to mention Estonian, Georgian, Lithuanian, Croatian, Slovenian and Macedonian. New competitors from the east brushed off economic upheaval, even civil war, to vie for the European Film Award's Felix statuette, handed out among much glitz at Berlin's Babelsberg Studios on Saturday night. Channel 4 viewers can see extracts from the ceremony next Sunday at 11.40pm. Thirty countries participated, from Iceland to Turkey. Greece squabbled with Macedonia over the right to the country's name. France first submitted the Piatat Van Gogh, then switched to Leos Carax's flamboyant hymn to Paris and punk love, *Les Amants du Pont Neuf*. Ireland could not summon any entries at all: both creatively and financially the films it produced were deemed not Irish enough, though the same strictures did not stop Luxembourg proposing a film made in Portuguese.

Geoff Brown reports from Berlin on the European Film Awards, a confused attempt to challenge Hollywood's cinematic supremacy

As for Britain, in the feature division we put forward for consideration Terence Davies's superb *The Long Day Closes* and Mark Peploe's patchy first feature *Afraid of the Dark*. Both were eliminated, though we gained a Special Mention for Paul Pawlikowski's documentary *Dostoevsky's Travels*. The Museum of the Moving Image was also given the EFA's Award for Special Accomplishments.

By the end of the day, the choice for European Film of the Year had been whittled down to *Les Amants du Pont Neuf*, Gianni Amelio's adroit if saccharine *Il Ladro di Bambini*, and *La Vie de Bohème* — a Finnish entry, though it was filmed in French. Kleenex in hand, the jury plumped for *Il Ladro di Bambini* (The Stolen Children) as European Film of the Year (Amelio's film *Open Doors* won the same prize two years ago). Strangely, given Kaurismäki's penchant for stylised zombie performances, *La Vie de Bohème* picked up two acting prizes, for Matti Pellonpää (Best Actor) and André Wilms (Best Supporting Actor). *Les Amants du Pont Neuf* still

came away with three statuettes, for its editing, its photography and its lead actress Juliette Binoche. But it had a popular rival in Alex van Warmerdam's *The Northerners*, a Dutch comedy about life on the isolated street of an abandoned housing project. This crazy view of suburbia was chosen Young European Film of the Year, perhaps the

'Even the statuettes have an American name: Felix is Oscar's other half in *The Odd Couple*

evening's most helpful prize, as the statuette comes with DM100,000 (£40,000). It also won prizes for its production design and its music. Those, then, were the main awards. But what are their purpose? Backed by the European Film Academy (formed last November from Europe's film-making elite) they aim to promote Europe's own cinema in the face of Hollywood supremacy; the prize-winning films will tour European cities.

The battle certainly needs fighting: Hollywood overwhelmingly dominates Europe's box-office lists. This being Europe, however, confusion persists about the best way to give our audiences a quality alternative to special effects and *Home Alone 2*.

The European Film Awards basically celebrate art-house product, bleak studies in misery like Xavier Beavois's excellent first feature *Nord*, a contender for the Young European Film prize. Yet the award ceremony itself lives in Hollywood's shadow, being closely modelled on the Oscar jamboree, with a touch or two of the Eurovision Song Contest.

This year's affair was more intimate, though we still had big band pizzazz, a dreadful songbird mauling Cole Porter, Nigel Kennedy doing his thing to Fritz Kreisler, and envelopes ripped open to the immortal words "And the winner is..." Even the statuettes themselves have an American name, for who is Felix but Oscar's other half in Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*?

Some industry observers argue that the awards ceremony would get more public support if the nominated films included genuinely popular European product. This year there was

certainly a case for choosing the Hitler diary romp *Schönheit*, Germany's big film of the year, instead the Germans proposed Rolf Schübel's *Das Hainweh des Wälfers Wrobel*, a wartime drama that got nowhere. Belgium's *Man Eats Dog*, widely popular with anarchic youth and a natural candidate for the Young European Film prize, went on local release a few weeks too late to be eligible for this year's competition.

Yet the hard fact remains that few commercial European films with any appeal outside their own country are now being made. Even within national boundaries, homegrown films have a hard time knocking Hollywood off its box-office perch. The series of "Flodder" films can do it in the Netherlands; stand-up comic Otto Waalkes can pull big audiences in Germany. But these are exceptions.

To compound the confusions, the awards now face money problems. The Berlin authorities were to host the award ceremony for three more years, but have since withdrawn the commitment, faced with their own budget cutbacks. Hamburg may step into the breach; Vienna is also interested. For all their faults, the European Film Awards deserve to prosper somewhere. But it is plain that even that we need an overhauled selection process and a still more distinctive awards ceremony if five-year-old Felix is to grow up properly and do his important job.

THEATRE REVIEW

No shelter from the pitiless storm

King Lear
Lilian Baylis Studio

On the day following an eclipse of the moon and the revelation of Royal domestic upheavals, Gloucester's prognostication that "These late eclipses in the sun and moon portend no good to us" struck a gloomily topical note. The social implications of Compass Theatre's touring production are broader, however. By portraying a Lear who is unstable to begin with, the play emerges as a terrible warning against releasing the mentally ill into the community.

Nick Chadwin's hyperactive little Lear is twitchily nervy from the start, rambling in speech, spasmodic in movement. This king's insanity has obviously been on the cards for some time and the cry of "Let me not be mad" comes not in sudden terror but with the nagging pain of a habitual dread.

The trouble is that without hints of Lear's past authority, his subsequent degradation lacks a tragic dimension. By the same token, denying nature her occasionally benign face lessens the impact of her savagery.

For all its silliness, the National Theatre production that staged the opening scene as a family party, the revellers wearing paper hats and blowing squeakers and Daddy taking his good little girl on his knee, at least suggested conventional relationships and emotional stability, the height from which the characters fall. It is hard to imagine normality in the sub-Beckett twilight world of Neil Sissons's production.

The symbolism of a tattered society depicted here is all too relevant. Lear clutches an old blanket over his frayed dinner jacket. A ragged skirt torn up one side, the remains of long evening gloves and sturdy lace-up boots give Helen Lieven's tumbled Regan a sexy

menace. The courtiers are generally tatty, as if survivors from some Holocaust still clinging to faint memories of the past.

As in their *Hamlet*, the eight players sometimes double, even triple, roles. It works less well here, possibly because *Lear* is a play of disguises, and when duplicities overlap, confusion results. Thus Paul Rider alternates a strong and threatening Edmund with a rather colourless Kent by changing jackets frequently before our eyes. As both characters, from different motives, engage in deceit, I can imagine newcomers to the play wondering who was impersonating whom at times.

Chadwin's King is touchingly accurate in his wretched senility, the production pre-empting the climatic challenge of the storm scene by making him shoot his bolt early on. The curse of sterility levelled at Goneril is sobbed out in a frenzy of rage with screaming, head-clutching, falling to his knees already a fully fledged mad scene.

The storm is excitingly conveyed by the three actresses manipulating the thunder-sheets which dominate the bare stage. The production's main lack is shelter from the tempest, psychologically vital in the play's frightening exploration of belonging and exclusion, of sheltering warmth and the jungle outside. The storytelling is direct, the acting always adequate and, in the case of Carlene Reed, fulfilling the promise of her Gertrude with an icily unstoppable Goneril, excellent.

MARTIN HOYLE

DONALD COOPER



A world in which it is hard to imagine normality: Helen Lieven as Regan and Nick Chadwin as Lear

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THE THEATRE CLUB

of relationships in this provocative thriller. Members can have two tickets for the price of one. Tel 021-236 4455.

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THEATRE PREVIEW: James Woodall on the 16th-century playwright Lope de Vega

Mad about the Spanish bard

Cervantes called him a "prodigy of nature". A modern commentator, Isabel Torres, suggests that were he alive today, "he might well do for theatre what Nigel Kennedy has done for classical music."

Lope Felix de Vega Carpio, two years older than Shakespeare, is said to have written 40 times as many plays. Of these some 500 survive, about a hundred of which are of questionable authorship. Lope's best-known work in this country, *Fuente Ovejuna*, had a triumphant staging under Declan Donnellan at the National in 1989, and only finished his extended tour at this year's Edinburgh Festival.

It was reading about a memorable staging of *Fuente Ovejuna* by Joan Littlewood at Stratford East in the 1950s that led the present director of Notting Hill's Gate Theatre, Laurence Boswell, to explore further the plays of this Spanish master. "Lope was basically the father and the mother of Spanish theatre," enthuses Boswell.

The Gate ran a hugely successful season of Spanish Golden Age drama last year. It featured work by Tirso de Molina and Calderón, playwrights who worked directly under the influence of Lope. Like Donnellan's *Fuente Ovejuna*, the Gate won an Olivier Award for its efforts, and Boswell has just finished directing his fourth Lope production for the Notting Hill space, *Madness in Valencia*.

"It's a play about people pretending to be mad, falling in love, and really going mad. Madness and love become the same thing. And the maddest people in the play are those



An early portrait of the prolific Lope de Vega

who go round saying everyone else is mad. It's a lovely series of conceits."

The play was written in the late 1590s, during Lope's exile in Valencia. He had been banished there from Madrid in 1588, aged 25, after publishing lewd poems about a woman with whom he had been having an affair and who had transferred her affections to a wealthier man.

By any standards, Lope's life was extraordinary. The son of an embroiderer, his first offerings were in poetry and literary pastoral. On arrival in

Valencia, he fell in love, which resulted in his first marriage. By 1614, he had fought in the Armada, become a widower twice over, fathered and lost many children, legitimate and illegitimate, and taken holy orders. He began writing plays after his return from the Armada. All of them mirror, to some degree, the events of his life, especially his erotic entanglements: many are preoccupied with honour, defiled and restored.

A prodigiously hard worker, Lope was also a great poet, by turns an intuitive user of the

vernacular and a brilliant fashioner of frank sexuality in his dialogues between men and women. It is the immediacy and freshness of his writing, little of which seems to be lost in David Johnston's translations for the Gate productions, that make Lope sound so contemporary.

Christian Flint, who has choreographed *Madness in Valencia* and plays an acrobatically insane doctor, confirms this. "I was expecting something more Shakespearean, full of rich imagery and metaphor. Instead I found a surprising amount of slapstick. But Lope would have used lots of *commedia* actors in his productions — medieval tumbling and physical tricks were part of his theatrical trade. It's all there in the text."

Boswell sees his stagings as a chance to combine the linguistic insights of Lope's poetic genius with an irresistible theatricality that is too often absent from contemporary renderings of a classic text. "I actually think that Lope was a very choreographic writer. He really understood the language of theatre as theatre, and it's true that many of his plays either stand or fall on dexterity of performance. You won't find any literary masterpieces there, just endlessly brilliant and popular theatre."

Madness in Valencia is the fifth British production of a Lope play in the last four years. Given the liveliness of the great Spanish playwright's current reputation, we should be seeing many more. There are, after all, another 395 or so to choose from.

● *Madness in Valencia* opens at the Gate Theatre, London (071-229 0706) tomorrow

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THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1992

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EDUCATION

When JR goes to college

Britain's university research is about to be graded. Peter Scott believes the grant assessment system is fatally flawed

This week every department in the existing universities and several departments in the new ones will receive their latest research gradings — like supermarket eggs. The lucky ones will score 5 (research of international standard), the unlucky ones 2 (below average) and the very unlucky 1 (no research worth funding).

The winners, of course, will keep quiet, preening their new or confirmed reputations for excellence, whatever doubts they may have about the validity of the latest research assessment exercise, the third but unlikely to be the last. The losers will complain bitterly that they have been robbed of their futures and, in the case of some old universities, their past too. There will be a ruthless stripping away of illusions.

The exercise has been undertaken by the quango which not so long ago was called the University Grants Committee (UGC), has been labelled the Universities Funding Council (UFC) and is now the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Three acronyms already and it gets worse! The aim is simple and sensible enough: to distribute research funds selectively. The process itself is Alice-in-Wonderlandish, without the fantasy or the humour.

Earlier this year each department had to fill in a research assessment (RA) form listing staff members, publications, research contracts and so on, typically 30-40 pages long. Every university then collated and dispatched to the HEFCE these departmental returns — say, 5,000 or 6,000 pages. The council, assisted by expert committees, then spent the summer considering a mountain of paper, many tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of pages deep.

The final gradings, made public on Friday, have been devised according to a complex formula littered with more acronyms. This time SR (funding based on student numbers) has been dropped. (Why should universities with the most students be assumed to have the best research too?)

So has CR (funding linked to research contracts), not because big contracts are bad news — the opposite is true — but because departments should not be rewarded twice over. In has come Dev R (development research), a new category invented to help the former polytechnics.

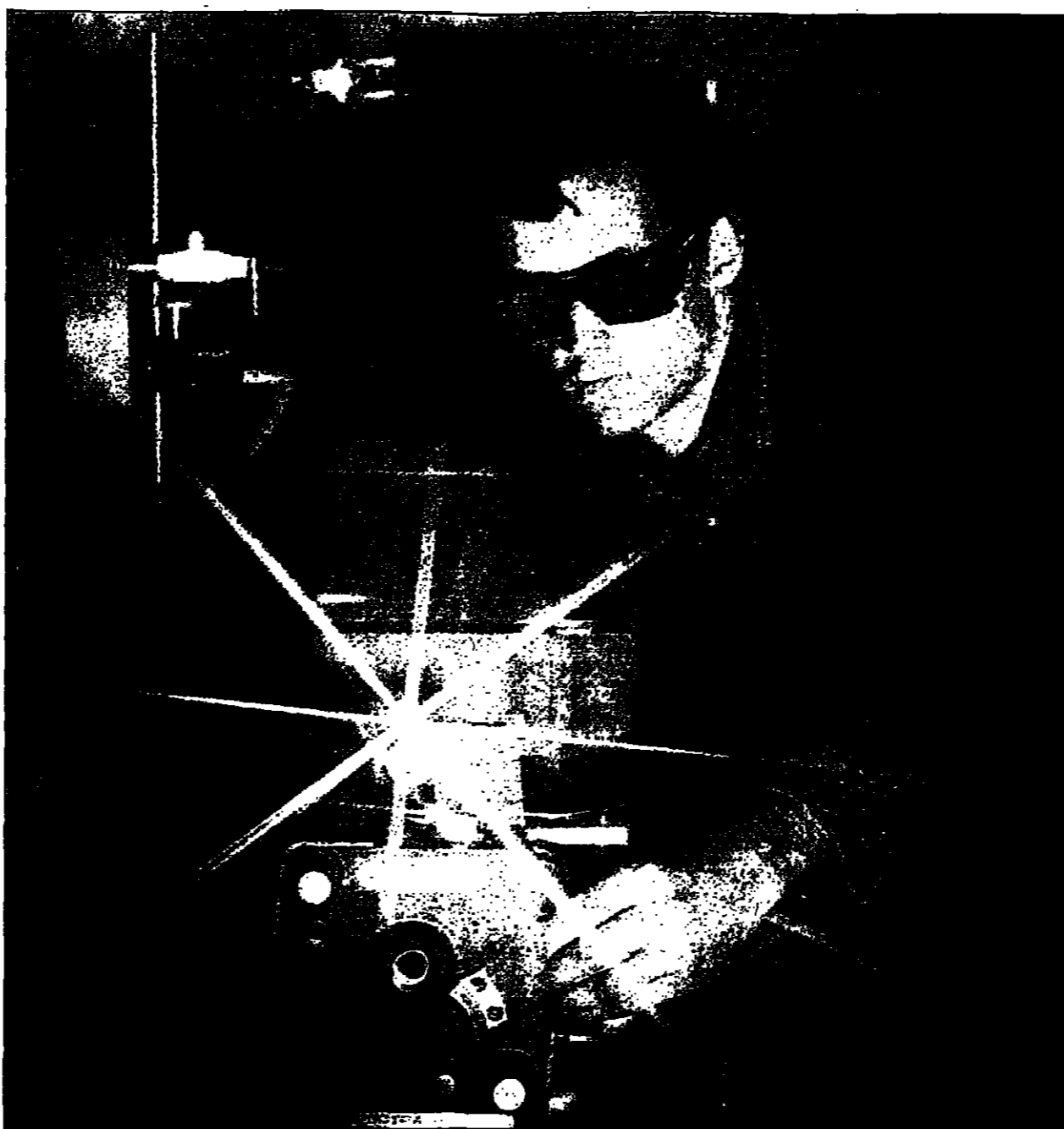
But the key factor behind this week's gradings is JR (judgmental research), a subjective assessment of excellence, informed but not constrained by publications data. Critics will ask what is the difference between JR and the infamous "informed prejudice" which the UGC applied to university allocations in the bad old days — except that lots of trees have had to be cut down to provide the RA paper mountain. After all, the people doing the assessing are very much the same people who advised the old UGC.

Certainly the results will surprise no one. The ascendancy of the golden triangle of Oxford, Cambridge and

London will be confirmed, although some of the big civic universities in the North and Midlands may have closed the gap. Rising universities such as Warwick will again be rewarded; those in decline will be more firmly identified. The former polytechnics will be fobbed off with scraps from the university table, although a small number may do surprisingly well. Only one, Central England (formerly Birmingham), had the bottle to sit out this round of research assessment.

None of this is really the funding council's fault. It has to operate in a political climate in which assessment, audit, accountability — and, of course, acronyms — have run riot. We live in the golden age of evaluation: the management consultant is king. Today the best and the brightest are not in the front line: they are staff officers. They sit on top of managerial hierarchies remote from the real world of jobs and production, or they are outsiders who advise, audit, assess the work of others. Universities are by no means the worst example. But the assessment society poses particular risks for them. It

warded; those in decline will be more firmly identified. The former polytechnics will be fobbed off with scraps from the university table, although a small number may do surprisingly well. Only one, Central England (formerly Birmingham), had the bottle to sit out this round of research assessment.



Hoping for a higher grade: Dr Matthew Halsall, of the University of East Anglia's physics department, adjusts a laser

may seem trite to insist that Adam Smith or Wittgenstein would not have been regarded as assets in the RA exercise — not enough publications, no research contracts. True but true. Real excellence evades assessment. It depends on a willingness to take big intellectual risks; RA rewards low-risk results. A more immediate danger is that the creative energies of universities will be devoted to research games rather than to research, still less to scholarly reflection. Ideas may get crowded out.

Already the first two rounds of RA have intensified the research culture in our leading university departments, probably at the expense of teaching. The third will further strengthen this culture, surely an unintended and undesirable consequence of the HEFCE's necessary drive to target research expenditure.

Perhaps this is a price that must be paid to keep Britain's

universities up to international scratch. But its long-term consequences must be recognised. The implicit, even explicit, model is that of the great American research universities — Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley. But these institutions are heirs to very different academic traditions. Undergraduate education is well off in colleges of arts and sciences; powerful graduate and professional schools dominate the university. Oxford and Cambridge, untypical admittedly but still topping the British system, are not at all like US research universities.

Finally, centralised bureaucratic peer-reviewed assessment on the HEFCE model may fail to capture some of the most dynamic research sectors as well as tending to discriminate against the reflective scholar. Once innovation was thought to begin in the laboratory and end in the factory. Today technology transfer, the

commercialisation of research, product and service development are seen as creative activities in their own right. The risk, therefore, is that this week's grades are the outcome of a process which, paradoxically, is impoverishing research as well as strengthening its funding base. Large-scale and radical restructuring is needed.

The author is professor of education at Leeds University

Tyranny by written test

The national curriculum was trumpeted abroad as an attempt by the government to ensure all schools at least taught a common broad based curriculum to all children. Pupils were to have an equal opportunity to study a core of agreed common knowledge and experience. Most educationalists accepted the general tenor and approach, but from this sound and positive base, the government has decided to proceed many stages further.

Naturally a Conservative government wants to test pupils to ensure that the national curriculum is being followed and teachers are up to the mark. What better way of doing this than by written tests with the comparative results of schools published in league tables? We were informed that publication of results was important for parents and was a way of assessing the school's performance. But what or whom are we assessing, and why?

Originally at the primary stage of Key Stage 1, there was a great deal of personal assessment on the level and understanding of individual children, but soon this was found to be too time-consuming. In the GCSE examination, too, where course-work holds an important place, that is being weaned away in favour of more written tests. So now the stage is set for testing for a meritocracy by a meritocracy, and forget the rest.

All schools are or are becoming accountable — we have huge tables printed in the media to prove it — but is the ensuring competition among schools for a "good reputation" and a full pupil body

necessarily a good idea? I am particularly worried about the consequences of a test-led educational system from the earliest ages, that can cause very detrimental developments in the curriculum.

Naturally each school will want to appear in the best possible position in the results table, but it is all too easy to massage test results by merely teaching what is required for the SAT, rather than the full curriculum. Schools are informed during the course of the academic year what is being tested in the SATs for seven-year-olds. Does the teacher therefore spend most of his or her time covering in detail the "testable" topics, even if it means that topics attained in the autumn term have to be retaught? Or does the teacher continue to ensure that all children cover as much of the national curriculum as they can to the best of their ability?

What are we testing anyway with which to compare our children? Does the government test the standard of pastoral care, or the creative ability of the child? Does it interest us if the child cares for others, or can work well in a team? There are perfectly respectable ways of measuring creative or sporting ability, but I suppose our bureaucrats would not consider such subjects at all important.

Who cares if our children happen to love poetry, consider others or can kick a football superbly? Any success here would not place our school high up in the tables. That would never do.

Jonathan Riley is headmaster of Elmwood Lawn preparatory school, Warwick

VIEWPOINT



Jonathan Riley

We live in the golden age of evaluation; the management consultant is king

Why classroom training needs thinking through

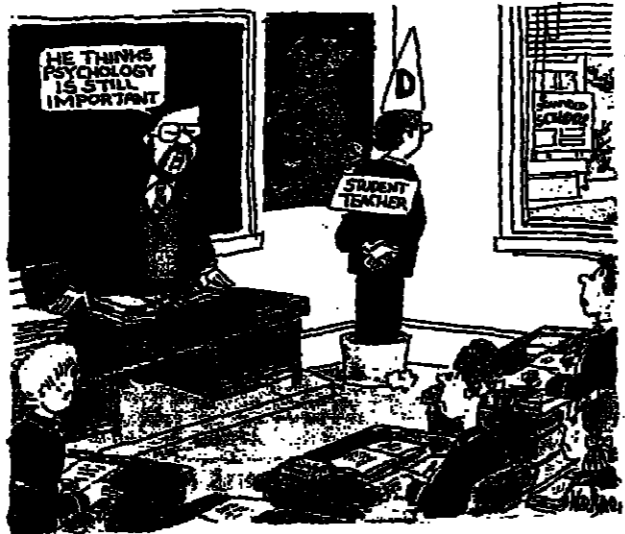
Not so long ago — ten years at most — intending teachers were thought to need some input from philosophy, psychology, sociology, perhaps also history and comparative studies. That input is fast disappearing: all the faster because initial teacher education is, or will soon be, largely school-based. Its absence has left a vacuum, which may be put in the form of the question, "What do student teachers need to know, what forms of enquiry should they become familiar with, that they cannot pick up for themselves in schools?"

People (and there are many) who answer "Nothing" or "Not much" have clearly not reflected on the problem. Teachers have to make many educational decisions, not only in the classroom but when dealing with parents, discipline, pastoral care, curriculum matters and many others. No sensible person can believe that these decisions do not require serious intellectual thought and understanding.

Nor is the question seriously faced by current practice in teacher education, which consists (putting it briefly) simply in familiarising student teachers with certain topics in a fairly practical or school-oriented way. The point is not just that this particular agenda has developed uncritically, but that the notion of familiarisation with topics does not address what kind of knowledge student teachers really need.

Failure to answer these questions makes nonsense of the idea of an "academic input", which is supposed (rightly)

Teacher education is inadequate if it does not include serious intellectual considerations, John Wilson argues



ly) to match the "practical" or experiential input from the schools in which student teachers will work. Such input can make sense only in terms of relevant disciplines: one cannot, for instance, simply study "racism" *per se*. We may ask about the concepts involved (philosophy), or how individuals feel (psychology), or about its social causes and effects (sociology), and so on. So if there is to be any serious "academic input", it has to be conceived in these terms.

That involves some decision, particularly since time is short, about what kinds of understanding are most important. To put it negatively, do teach-

ers perform badly because they do not think clearly enough about concepts and values (so that they chiefly need philosophy), or because they are badly-informed about children's minds (psychology), or about society (sociology), or what? Is their chief need for some sort of understanding about their own emotions (psychotherapy)?

These questions are clearly prior to more practical questions about how teacher-education institutions can best deliver such understanding. There is not much point in talking about the reflective practitioner unless we are clear about what sort of reflection is needed. (And whether it is only reflection that is needed: perhaps some kind of attitude change or other virtues need cultivation.)

There is a severely practical side to this. It is not surprising that hard-pressed institutions of teacher education have so far failed to answer them. But that produces a vacuum which is filled by whatever seems to be "relevant", popular with the students, acknowledged by the schools, and easy to deliver. Such a content is vulnerable to the university constituency, which may doubt whether anything academically or theoretically serious is being done at all. At the same time, government and other pragmatic agencies may doubt whether such content is of any practical value, and ultimately the schools themselves may come to doubt whether the teacher-education institutions actually possess more authority and expertise than themselves in these areas. So it will come to look as if such institutions are simply acting as adjuncts or facilitators, rather than possessing any genuine authority of their own.

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BUILDING, ROADS

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ELECTRICALS

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Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end December 31. Settlement day January 4. Settlement day January 11. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices reflect the close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Sir Ron builds his barricades

Sir Ron Dearing's dire warning that his Financial Reporting Council could be doomed, unless it receives support, sounds both surprising and, on the surface, alarmist. At the moment, his regime of statute-based self-regulation seems to be riding high in the war against corporate financial shenanigans. The Accounting Standards Board has changed the accounting climate, pushed through one of the most thorough changes for many a year and is well up with its eighteen-month blitz on the most obvious accounting abuses.

On the enforcement side, the FRC's review panel has managed to inspire fear and persuade companies to accept its rulings and mend their ways without going to court. Only the Trafalgar House case got near the brink. Trafalgar's old board backed away, instructively, because it judged that its reputation in the City, once high, had fallen so low that it could not risk a bruising court case.

Beyond the central battleground of accounting standards, the Cadbury committee, which was sponsored by the FRC and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, has come up with a workable, if modest, code for improving standards in the boardroom that keeps both management interests and institutional investors on board. The Auditing Practices Board has been galvanised into arguing that the expectations gap be closed by auditors doing what the public expects. Many auditors are delighted that stern old values might regain sway. The ICAEW, which is behind many of these initiatives, has started reforms in audit quality, ethics, discipline and openness in the profession.

The ICAEW is sufficiently confident of the action it has taken or sponsored on seven different fronts to think that the profession can now afford to take a more robust line with its critics. Sir Ron is too experienced a campaigner to go along with that. His warnings are a pre-emptive strike against critics combined with a call for reformers to throw up the barricades against potential storms ahead.

Sir Ron knows that the FRC's honeymoon is over. Powerful companies such as banks and takeover kings may no longer be prepared, for the general good, to go along with changes that affect their interests keenly, as much of the ASB's reform programme for 1993 is likely to do. Such powerful interests may have fewer qualms than Trafalgar House about challenging the review panel in court and, as the panel's chairman notes, it is far from sure that its interpretations will withstand that test. Many backwoodsmen at the ICAEW think the cost of regulation too high and the pace of change there too hectic. The institute's constitution gives them a big voice. The Cadbury code will severely test the enthusiasm of institutional shareholders. The APB's vision will leave many of them far behind.

Ranged on the other side of Sir Ron's castle, critics of self-regulation, who never had much patience, will look for reformers to deliver results faster than they are able after only two years at the task. The APB's plans to tighten up acquisition accounting will not take effect before 1994. The accountancy institutes' first report to the DTI on audit quality has shown that the hinterland of the profession has a great deal of work to do. Inevitable company disasters will focus attention on weaknesses in the Cadbury code, which will need more scope and bite when it is reviewed in 1995. Many of the APB's more far-reaching suggestions will make little progress until then and may need legislation.

Government, though loath to open that box, may well want a new Companies Act before the next election. The question is what will be in it: measures to reinforce self-regulation and ease its path, or burdensome and potentially hostile statutory controls? Those who value self-regulation should heed the message of the corporate sector's chief scout — be prepared.

Currency speculators could rescue UK from 'twin deficits' nightmare

The pound needs years of weakness to attract substantial investment into Britain's anaemic manufacturing sector, says Anatole Kaletsky

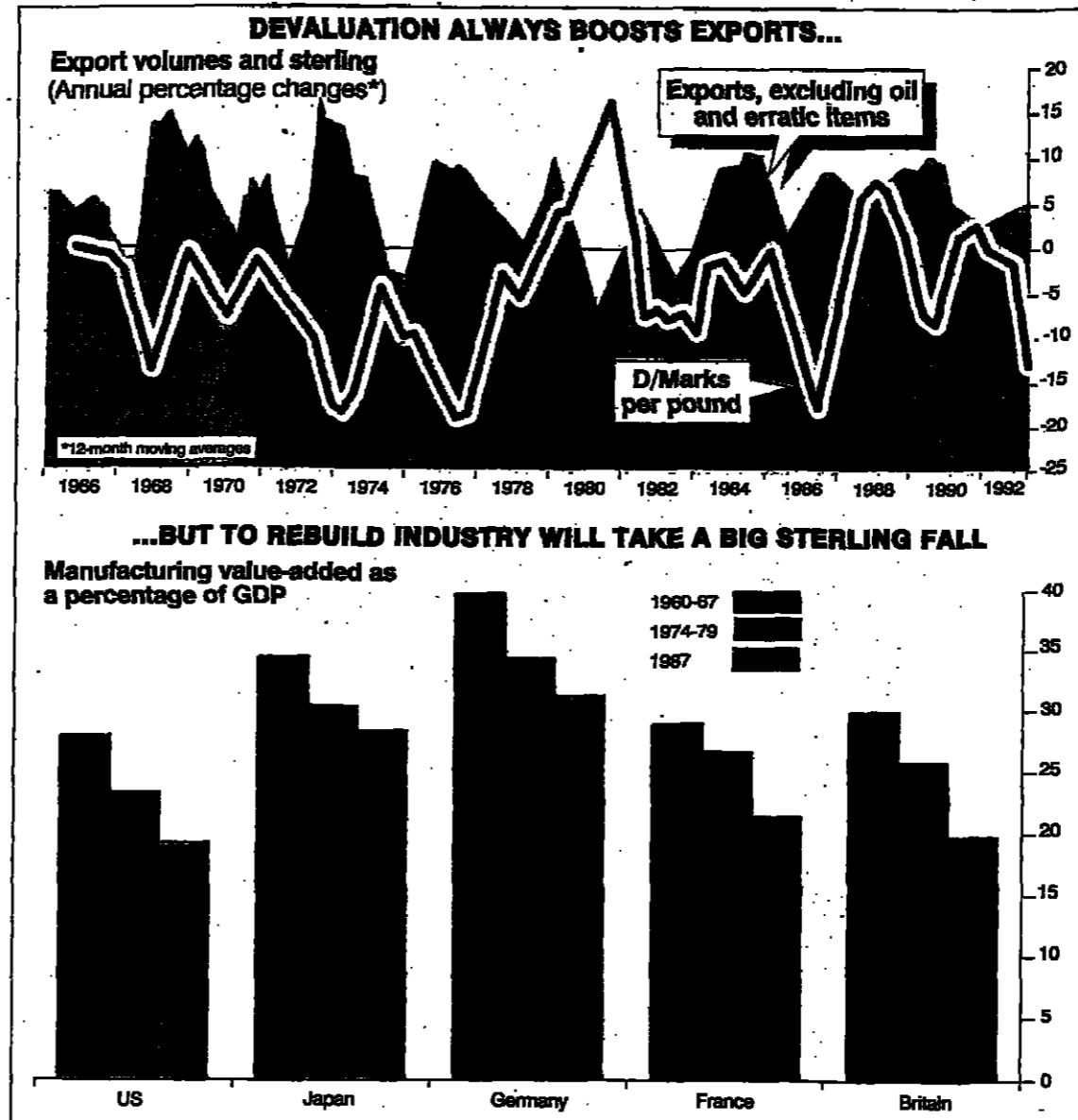
The title *Twin Peaks* may be catchier than *Twin Deficits*, but as surreal thrillers go, the management of the British economy can compete with any Hollywood movie. For a start, some colourful character-actors have suddenly been given walk-on parts.

The appointment of the Treasury's new panel of outside economic advisers seems likely to give an extra boost to the recovery, via a further cut in interest rates. Four of the so-called "seven wise men" — Wynne Godley, Tim Congdon, Patrick Minford and Gavin Davies — are on record demanding interest rates of 5 per cent or lower; a fifth, Andrew Sentance, works for the CBI, which has called for an immediate cut to 6 per cent. The Treasury may say it is more interested in the panel's forecasting expertise than in its policy advice. But the five-to-two majority among the wise men in favour of sharply lower rates will make it hard for Treasury officials to counter demands from the Conservative party and John Major for more effective anti-recession measures.

Some City dealers were so amused by the new panel's appointment that, in the absence of other market-moving news, they attributed the pound's ups and downs last week to statements by Professors Minford and Godley. This was giving too much credit to the bit players. The pound rose sharply earlier this month because investment institutions and multinational companies that had made billions at the Bank of England's expense on Black Wednesday wanted to lock in some of those profits before Christmas. By Tuesday, most of this end-year buying was finished and the pound duly slumped — which brings us back from the subplot to the main drama of *Twin Deficits*.

If a strong economic recovery begins next year, the markets will soon be reminded of the most crippling symptom of Britain's long-term economic failure — a trade deficit that just seems to keep on growing, however much the pound is devalued and however fiercely the Treasury squeezes domestic demand. If, on the other hand, the economy stays stuck in its present sickly convalescence, the other deficit — the unprecedented gap between government spending and taxes — will loom into view, as described in this column three weeks ago.

The most probable outcome is a combination of the two: both the fiscal and trade deficits will assume nightmarish proportions. The Treasury will be too timid to permit the



rapid economic growth that could avert a fiscal crisis. But the recovery will be just strong enough to suck in more imports, create an unsustainable trade deficit, and finally trigger an inflationary run on the pound, in the style of the 1976 IMF crisis.

Fast experience would certainly suggest such a *dénouement* to the present economic drama — and sooner, rather than later, as many City analysts are beginning to warn. But before getting carried away with the tragic possibilities, it is worth recalling that a *deus ex machina* suddenly intruded into the plot on September 16. On White Wednesday, financial speculators saved Britain from the disaster of ERM membership. These same speculators could yet help to steer the economy between the twin perils of the trade and fiscal deficits. To see how requires a historical digression.

The root cause of most of Britain's economic problems since the first world war is a chronic inability to pay our way in the world by selling exports. As every businessman knows, there are only two sure ways for a company to increase its sales — by making a product better or more attractive than the competition's, and

by offering it at a lower price. This is as true for a country as it is for an individual business.

Every country would like to improve the "quality" of its goods, but that is a matter for individual businesses, not governments. When it comes to selling a nation's products on price, by contrast, governments can quickly boost exports — by making their currencies cheaper.

Devaluation has always worked in Britain, at least in the short term. As the top chart shows, Britain's exports have risen every time the pound has fallen, in a counterpoint that has moved almost perfectly throughout the 25 years since the devaluation of 1967. Devaluation has also worked, at least in the short term, in virtually every industrialised and developing country in the post-war era, as well as in most European countries after the gradual breakdown of the gold standard in 1931.

However, devaluation has also carried risks and costs. Until the 1980s, each major fall in the pound — in 1967, in 1973 and in 1976 — initially stimulated exports, but then produced higher inflation. Inflation

soon whittled away the trade benefits of devaluation, leading to another balance of payments crisis and then a further fall in the pound.

Sooner or later, this rake's progress had to be stopped — which was why the IMF was called in in 1976 and why the country turned to Margaret Thatcher three years later. The pound was duly revived and the current account was consistently in surplus from 1980 to 1986. In retrospect, however, it looks as if Britain's sudden recovery from its chronic balance of payments disease had less to do with the financial medicine administered by the IMF and Lady Thatcher than with the discovery of North Sea oil.

Unfortunately, the sudden rise in the pound that proved to be a side-effect of Britain's oil wealth did great damage to the country's ability to export and to sell goods in competition with imports at home.

Britain's inefficient and feather-bedded manufacturing industries were long overdue for a shake-up in labour relations and management methods. The trading companies that survived the period of overvalued sterling became far more efficient, but too few survived. All advanced

economies gradually shift their output away from manufacturing, as the bottom chart shows. But in Britain and America this shift has gone much further than in other countries.

In Britain, the consequences became apparent from the mid-1980s, when the pound had returned to a more reasonable level and domestic demand had revived. Growing consumption stimulated industrial production and investment in Britain, but there were not enough domestic manufacturers to meet demand. Imports rapidly gained market share, and the current account deteriorated by the equivalent of 5 per cent of GDP from 1985 to 1988. By early 1989, Nigel Lawson faced a 1970s-style sterling crisis, and hoisted interest rates from 7½ to 15 per cent.

Most economists believe that a similar fate will befall the next recovery, except that the balance of payments crisis will hit Britain much sooner. After all, the economic upswing of the 1990s will start from a current account deficit of 2 per cent of GDP in the present recession, instead of the surplus of 2.5 per cent Britain enjoyed in 1981.

Yet there does seem to be a way out, which is where the speculators come in. America and Britain have two historical experiences in common. In the early 1980s, they had a brief period when their exchange rates became extremely overvalued, wiping out large parts of their manufacturing industries. Even more significantly, they had long periods of high exchange rates, especially against the yen and the German mark, in the 1950s and 1960s. These were the decades when Germany and Japan built up their formidable export industries, while the incentives for manufacturing investment in the Anglo-Saxon countries became relatively weak.

The markets could force the Treasury to abandon its long-standing attachment to a high exchange rate, not just for a few weeks or months, but for a decade or more. To restore Britain's ability to export, the pound must fall to a level that makes new investment in British manufacturing and other trading activities irresistibly attractive. The pound must become undervalued, as the dollar has been in the past few years.

Because of the depth of the present recession, this is an ideal time to allow a fall in the pound to overshoot. The faster sterling becomes undervalued, the greater the chances of avoiding inflation and maintaining the competitive benefits, as in the mid-1980s, instead of wasting them as in the previous two decades.

Of course, the government would have to do more than just watch the pound drop. Next week, I will discuss how a cheap sterling policy could avoid inflation. Above all, the government would have to reduce its budget deficit to divert resources into investment and exports. That is why this drama is called *Twin Deficits*. It is nearly time for the speculators to get back on stage for the second act.

Tomorrow's deadline moulds the future of pensions law

From Mr Richard Davis

Sir, The deadline of the December 15 for submission of proposals and recommendations as to the future of pensions law to the Goodie Committee fast approaches. We are all aware that the main cause of its review is the Maxwell situation.

Why did not someone "blow the whistle" or stop him? In simple terms the problem appears to be his track record of threats of actual dismissal from employment or actions for libel or slander in court to those who questioned his actions or chose to challenge him ("the risk factor").

The previous and still existing legal requirements were found wanting.

On any breaches of company law and trust law that he committed, it is easy with hindsight to suggest the means of control exist.

The main issue appears to be how enforceable trust law is in such situations, particularly to react quickly? Injunctions by other trustees to restrain activities, or by members with limited means and resources to meet their costs and those of

Robert Maxwell himself if they were not successful, particularly in the light of the "risk factor".

Trust law is the way forward as Pension Trust Law. It should be identified as such and consolidated in one up-to-date statute.

It should provide that occupational pension schemes be the guarantee funds for pension promises in the employment contracts. Employment Law should be updated to reflect the seriousness of the contractual commitment, particularly on the disclosure procedure, alteration of terms, and enforceability.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD G. L. DAVIS
(Partner),
Eversheds,
Eversheds Wells & Hind,
Solicitors,
10 Newhall Street,
Birmingham.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

A user body the regulator would consult

From Mr T. S. Corrigan

Sir, It was with some interest that I read the article in your Focus on BT feature on December 3 about BT's relationship with its regulator.

The impression given is that BT does what OfTel bids them, not because they wish to but because they have no choice.

This contrasts with BT's attitude to users, which appears to be that while they are entitled to have a point of view and to express it, they should have no positive role in ensuring that BT gives them what they want, notwithstanding

they provide BT with its revenue.

Postal users should take note of this, bearing in mind that Mr Michael Heseltine has said he will privatise Parcelforce and has had the rest of the Post Office under review since the end of July. An announcement is expected soon.

In the event of a decision for more privatisation, appropriate regulatory arrangements will need to be put in place. At present the government, as owner, acts as the Post Office regulator and the Council which I chair has a statutory

role on behalf of all users, although no regulatory powers, which inter alia requires it to be consulted by the Post Office about proposed changes to prices and services.

The impression of the regulatory experience of privatised utilities thus far in the UK is that the establishment of price structures, service standards, compensation and complaints procedures stem more from considerations of providing regulated competition than from the service needs of users.

The regulator, not the users' representative bodies (and the impression given in the Focus article is that if they had their way BT would decide), My Council therefore favours the creation of a regulatory structure which provides for the establishment of an independent user body which the regulator has a statutory duty to consult. Your feature article reinforces that view.

Yours faithfully,
T. S. CORRIGAN
(Chairman),
Pound
(Post Office Users' National Council),
Waterloo Bridge House,
Waterloo Road,
SE1.

Diagnosing the missing unemployed

From Dr D. J. Davies

Sir, Mr D. Peter Smith (Business Letters, December 9) wonders where are the missing millions of unemployed?

It is well recognised among family doctors countrywide that a disproportionate section of the population is drawing various forms of sickness and invalidity benefits for specious medical and related conditions which are difficult to disprove.

In addition, the normal

degenerative conditions of ageing constitute an excuse for the early retired to supplement their income with long term social security benefits, which furthermore can be tax free to the age of 70 years.

This not insignificant section of the community is in fact living at the expense of the harder working tax payer.

Yours faithfully,
DR. D. J. DAVIES,
14 Neath Road,
Resolven, Neath, Glam.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ski club runs into resistance

THE Stock Exchange Ski Club, whose turn it is to host the next inter-bourse ski contest, in St Anton, Austria, on January 25, is in high dudgeon after being refused sponsorship by a number of the City's leading financial institutions. The final straw came, it claims, when the Stock Exchange reversed a decision to foot a £600 bill for lapel badges, after the art work had been commissioned. The SE insists that it offered only administrative assistance. Others that refused to spend any money in support of the event, even though it will attract up to 500 contestants from 25 stock exchanges, include the Bank of England, the Corporation of London and the Committee for Invisible Earnings. Notable exceptions are Warburg, which will pay for the welcoming party, Reuters, which is paying for a gala dinner, Whitbread and Liffé. "We have managed to raise the £80,000 sponsorship we needed without any help from our City forefathers," says a disgruntled Richard Stancomb, a stockbroker and ski club member. "This is the first time London has hosted it since 1984, and it will be a success despite them. If the City cannot get its act together and advertise itself then it does not deserve to be a leading financial centre."

Howlers from KB
A STRANGE howling noise is likely to be heard emanating from the directors' dining



"I keep having this dreadful nightmare about Tiny retiring from Lourho..."

room at Kleinwort Benson's Fenchurch Street tower block on December 21, as guests of the firm's investment strategy team arrive for pre-Christmas drinks. The howling, for once, will have nothing to do with the directors. The originators will be two tame wolves owned by Roger Palmer, the chief investment strategist. Palmer, who has kept wolves in a pen on his farm in Berkshire for many years, allowing them regularly into his home, and letting them be used in a number of films, including *American Werewolf in London*, has finally persuaded KB chairman David Peake to allow him to bring two of the much-loved creatures on to the premises. "Guests will be in the senior staff canteen on the 23rd floor, with the wolves a floor below," explains Trevor Laughton, one of Palmer's colleagues. "We are even thinking of putting one in the lift when people leave, so that everyone does a double take."

Roger assures us that they are very tame. Fund managers who have received invitations, with a handwritten post-script advising that the wolves will be present, have been telephoning KB in disbelief. "They think we are joking," adds Laughton. "We are definitely not." Palmer, away on a European business trip, is said to be considering rescuing the 14 wolves at Windsor Safari Park, but is meeting resistance from his long-suffering wife, Theresa.

Guild recruit

IT CAN be revealed exclusively in this column that Jimmy Hill, the television football commentator and former Fulham footballer, has become a lubricator. To be more precise, he has joined the Guild of the Nineteen Lubricators, which had its annual service at St Margaret's Church, Westminster on Friday. Despite its title, the guild has nothing to do with drink. It was formed by a group of oilmen with the intention of socialising while at the same time raising funds for charity. This, to its credit, the guild has done over the years with some style, raising many thousands of pounds being for deserving causes. Few oilmen, if any, are now listed among its exclusive membership, which also includes several company chairmen and at least one fund manager. After the service at Westminster, the Lubricators retired to a private room at the Savoy to pursue the aims of the guild. They may still be there.

CAROL LEONARD

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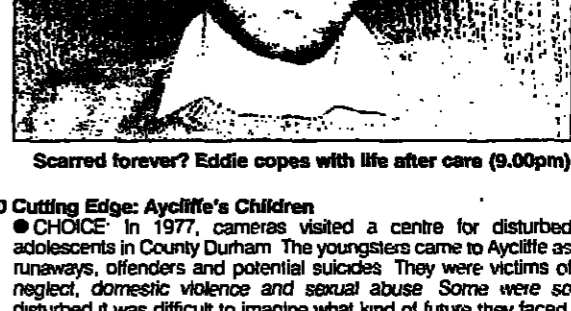
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A WORLD OF COMFORT

CHANNEL 4

5.00 **Cartoons** (16240)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** with Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (21375)
9.00 **You Bet Your Life**. Bill Coslett hosts the game show (5732153)
9.25 **Film: Follow a Star** (1959). b/w. Sentimental comedy starring Norman Wisdom as a cleaner providing the singing voice for a fading actor. Directed by Robert Asher (24301356)
11.20 **Yorkshire Ditty**. Animation of *On Bidey Moor* (5505424)
11.30 **Credo: The Hungarian Reformed Church**. The resurgence of Calvinism in rural Hungary (1449)
12.00 **Right to Reply** (r). (Teletext) (s) (10920)
12.30 **Sesame Street**. The guest is singer Gloria Estefan (54962)
1.30 **Dr Snuggles**. Cartoon fun (r) (33714)
2.00 **Film: Who's Minding the Store?** (1963). Jerry Lewis stars in this typical comedy as the accident-prone boyfriend of Jill St John, creating havoc in her millionaire father's department store. Directed by Frank Tashlin (155511)
3.40 **The Three Stooges: So Long, Mr. Chumps** (1941, b/w). The trio attempts to stooge a man from jail. (Teletext) (5597820)
4.00 **Spirit of Trees**. Dick Warner looks to the future (r). (Teletext) (598)
4.30 **Fifteen to One**. Quick-fire quiz (r) (182)
5.00 **The Late Late Show**. Music and conversation with Gay Byrne in Dublin (s) (4172)
6.00 **My Two Dads: See You in September**. Contrived American comedy series about a girl with two fathers. Joey (Greg Evigan) is depressed after an unsuccessful blind date (r). (Teletext) (s) (375)
6.30 **The Wonder Years: The Accident**. Kevin (Frid Savage) tries to win back his girlfriend (r) (527)
7.00 **Channel 4 News with Jon Snow**. (Teletext) Weather (523265)
7.50 **Comment**. A personal opinion (149549)
8.00 **Brookside**. (Teletext) (s) (1849)
8.30 **Desmond's**. Go with Flo. Genial comedy set in a Peckham barber's shop. Starring Norman Beaton. (Teletext) (s) (7396)



This film gives some of the answers as it catches up on seven of the

random but the picture is bleak. One man has spent ten years in prison. A woman who has been in and out of psychiatric hospitals is alone and friendless. Another life ended tragically. A former teacher at Aycliffe says: "Surely to God one of the stories could have had a happy ending". But the sobbing actress says that as children scared young are likely to be scared for ever. (2301)

10.00 A Bit of a Do: The Clive Wedding. Can the final "do" pass without incident? Starring David Jason and Nicola Pagett. (Teletext) (2288)

11.00 Catholics and Sex. The final programme in the series explores guilt and homosexuality (18581)

12.00 Film: Streets of Yesterday (1988). Moral drama starring Paul Merton and John Wood. The film is set in 1935 and is about the politics of the Gadda street. With John Finch and Suzan Sylvester. Directed by Jazz Ne'eman (870554). Ends at 1.00am

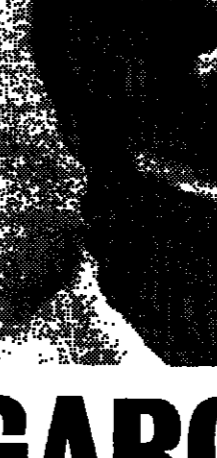
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1.30 Basketball (BB57B) 1
171531 2.30 Sports Special


[illegible]

1966: Richard Burton plays the

[illegible]

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Twin deficits,
a new economic
drama for Britain

BUSINESS

MONDAY DECEMBER 14 1992

MANAGEMENT 33

Managers are
overloaded and their
career prospects ignored

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

'Crunch year'
for reform
of accountingBy GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

PRIVATE sector institutions for improving companies' financial reporting may have to be strengthened or abandoned unless their reforms are accepted and held sway, Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the Financial Reporting Council, says.

This warning, from the man who suggested and created the FRC's regime for setting and enforcing accounting standards, will put heavy pressure on companies, auditors and City interests not to rock the boat of reform. Sir Ron is anxious to win support for the accounting standard on profits, due to come into force next year, and for controversial changes to be put forward in the spring by the Accounting Standards Board.

Introducing the council's second annual review, Sir Ron issued a warning that the council and the ASB faced a critical period in which their authority could be tested by opposition or by new schemes

■ The next 12 months will make or break the bodies set up to reform British accounting standards. If self-regulation fails statutory controls may be inevitable

to undermine the spirit of the reforms. "We know that the going is likely to get tougher; 1993 may indeed be a crunch year for financial reporting, as the pressures on business mount and as the ASB begins to tackle many of the most difficult issues in financial reporting."

He asks companies to refer novel accounting techniques to the board's urgent issues task force for a ruling in advance, rather than adopt creative accounting in the hope that it will slip through.

The report argues that continued self-regulation of reporting standards under the regime set up by the FRC "depends on the willingness of the boardroom, and the commitment of the accounting profession, to self-discipline and to support for the pro-

nouncements of the Accounting Standards Board".

The alternatives spelt out by the council are to strengthen the powers of its accounts review panel to enforce standards through the courts, to create a version of America's Securities and Exchange Commission, or to make accounting standards statutory.

The council concludes in its report that it will urge the government to provide a stronger framework "if it proves unable to bear the strains put upon it by companies determined to contest new accounting standards or by auditors who are not prepared to uphold standards in the face of company pressure".

Edwin Glasgow, the QC who chairs the review panel, says companies called before the panel have accepted its views. Should they not, he suggests, it might be hard to force them to do so through the courts.

He writes: "I entertain serious doubts as to the appropriateness of litigation as a method of resolving some of the grey areas which inevitably arise between the ASB's careful and sophisticated accounting standards, on the one hand, and the statute's disarmingly simple requirements of a truth and fairness on the other."

The panel has had the accounts of 78 companies drawn to its attention since it started in mid-1991, split almost equally between public complaints, doubts raised by auditors and press comment. David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB, says the board plans to issue proposals for a three-part reform of acquisition accounting during 1993.

These are likely to rule out most of the write-offs common after takeovers, and most of the choice to treat takeovers as mergers and change the treatment and valuation of goodwill and other intangibles.

Standards due in 1993 will restrict off-balance-sheet finance and fancy types of capital and probably force regular revaluations of some assets. All of these could have a big impact on powerful businesses, including banks and property groups, and are likely to cause dispute.

Sir Ron is also anxious about the quality of audits, which is not within the council's ambit, and the need to bridge gaps between how auditors interpret their job and what the public expects of them.

Comment, page 34



Meet my friend: Emily Marchbank, 2½, soaks up the magic of Hamleys toy shop in central London, at the weekend

Christmas
presents
beat the
recession

By OUR CITY STAFF

EVEN in the depths of recession parents are prepared to spend substantial sums of money on their children at Christmas, according to a survey conducted by Neilsen, the market research group.

Of more than 600 adults who had children under 16 living at home about 25 per cent said they were prepared to pay between £50 and £100 on the main Christmas present for each child. More than 15 per cent said they would spend more than £100.

About 39 per cent were likely to buy traditional games against 35 per cent who would opt for high technology equivalents. About 60 per cent are influenced by their children in the choice of present.

Peter Skinner, marketing director of Hamleys, the toy shop group, said Christmas trading had "been very encouraging so far this year". He expects trading to be "significantly better than last year", although he says it is a continuing trend that Christmas trading starts later and later each year.

The top selling toy at Hamleys so far this year has been the Sega Video Games System that sells at £129.99 followed by Nintendo Video Games Systems at £129.99.

Full evidence of pre-Christmas trading will come in the CBI Distributive Trades Survey due out tomorrow. Selfridges, the London department store, opened its doors on a Sunday for the first time in its 83-year history yesterday and was "very pleased" with the results.

'Tough' trio lured to
Lloyd's market board

By SARAH BAGNALL

DAVID Rowland, chairman-elect at the Corporation of Lloyd's, has enticed three leading businessmen on to the newly formed market board, which is intended to be the driving force for developing the market's insurance business.

The appointments of Paul Myers, chairman and chief executive at Gartmore Investment Management, David Newbould, chairman at Rentokil, NM UK and Ivory & Sime, and Nicholas Pawson, chairman at FMI, the computer company, as external members of the 18-strong market board is aimed at boosting outside confidence in the corporation.

Mr Rowland said: "Nobody would imagine that these men would join the board and sit there and pussyfoot around."

They all have a reputation for being tough, and according to Mr Rowland, one came

to his attention because he subjected three underwriters, who had made him losses, to an intense grilling, which none of them wanted to go through again.

The market board has seven working members of the council, including Robert Hiscox and Stephen Merrett, deputy chairman of the council, and four market association nominees. The remaining three members are Lloyd's executives, including Peter Middleton, who heads the market board as chief executive.

The decision to set up the market board, which will begin work at the start of next year, and a regulatory board, the members of which are still to be announced, followed recommendations outlined in the Lloyd's task force report. The report, published in January, called for business development to be separated from regulation.

Lonrho denies report over
moving its headquarters

By COLIN CAMPBELL

Lonrho may establish "satellite" headquarters in Africa, the Far East, and possibly, Germany in recognition of its international network of operations but London will remain the group's main head office, Paul Spicer, a Lonrho deputy chairman, said yesterday.

In a statement denying reports in *The Observer*, which is owned by Lonrho, that Tiny Rowland, the group's chief executive, was preparing to transfer Lonrho's operational HQ to Germany if he thought the change of business climate could benefit the company, Mr Spicer insisted that the corporate base would remain in London.

Mr Rowland agreed last week to sell half his personal 92.1 million share stake in Lonrho at 115p a share to Dieter Bock, the German financier. He also granted Herr Bock an option over the bulk of his remaining shareholding. The City viewed the deal as acknowledgement of Herr Bock as Lonrho's "crown prince". Lonrho said

the association with Herr Bock was a milestone in its history, and indicated that it would lead to new opportunities. It announced a three-for-ten rights issue at 85p a share, which Herr Bock is to underwrite partially.

Depending on the level of take-up, he will own between 9 and 19 per cent of Lonrho's enlarged capital. His eventual stake could rise to 25 per cent, once the option over Mr Rowland's remaining shareholding is exercised.

Lonrho shares closed last week at 72p, suggesting that most ordinary investors will shun the rights issues. Under the underwriting agreement with Herr Bock, Lonrho is assured of a minimum net £80 million. Lonrho is also selling its VAG motor interests to Volkswagen for an overall £124 million.

Herr Bock's interests are essentially associated with property, construction and hotels in Europe, South Africa and America. He is expected to be invited to join Lonrho's

board, business commitments permitting, once the rights issue is completed next month. Herr Bock "has marvellous business connections in Europe, especially in eastern Europe, and we have big plans", Mr Rowland said last week.

Lonrho said that it was a "business secret" which assets it planned to sell before end-September to raise between £300 million and £400 million, though the possible sale of 4,300 apartments in Germany had been made public. None of the other assets to be sold would be "core". Mr Rowland said that *The Observer* was a "precious asset".

He said Lonrho's debt would be reduced this year, and added that he would be staying with Lonrho (shareholders permitting) for at least another four years. Lonrho added yesterday that it remained "very happy" having only one broker to the company — Société Générale Strauss Turnbull.

Scene set for a conclusion to Gatt

Arthur Dunkel tells
Colin Narbrough
of his hopes on
the Uruguay Round

MOUNTING concern that French and American resistance could still cause the world trade talks to founder have been firmly dismissed by Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Mr Dunkel, who is still aiming for a "political understanding" on an agreement by the end of this year, prior to tidying up outstanding details early next year, said in an interview with *The Times* that the six-year-old Uruguay Round negotiations on liberalised trade have entered a "more intensive" phase. Negotiators in Geneva were, furthermore, trying to accelerate the process, he said.

All the key delegations to the Gatt talks have been at full strength since the Round resumed on November 26, after Washington and Brussels achieved a breakthrough to end their two-year-old

dispute over subsidies on agricultural produce. Yet the resumption of talks has been accompanied by resistance from France to the transatlantic deal and by calls from Congressional Democrats and American industry lobbies for President-elect Bill Clinton to delay the whole Uruguay Round.

Mr Dunkel is convinced that French objections to the farm accord will prove to be no more than the usual "changeable weather" that has been a feature of the Gatt talks since they began.

Mr Dunkel likes to depict the Uruguay Round as an ascent on a Himalayan peak. Having reached the final camp, within striking distance of the summit, the climbers are having to cope with a lack of oxygen ready for the final assault. Meteorological shifts are at this stage only of passing importance, he notes.

Importantly, Mr Dunkel sees scope in liberalised services and rules protecting intellectual property for France to achieve the "balanced package" of deals it wants for concessions on farm trade. He has constantly underlined that it was a mistake to focus on the farm aspect of the talks. On the



Dunkel: final push

latest American problems to surface, including Washington's reported rejection of the proposed world trade body — the Multilateral Trade Organisation — to be set up in conjunction with the Uruguay Round, Mr Dunkel appears unconcerned.

Despite American calls for delays and substantial changes to the draft final agreement he presented a year ago, Mr Dunkel said he had been reassured of firm support for the Gatt Round by key politicians, including Lloyd Bentsen, the Senate finance committee chairman, who was last week

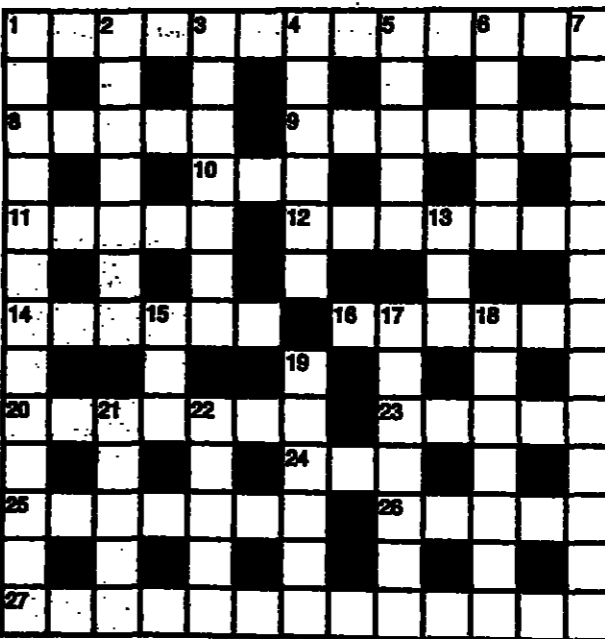
named as the future treasury secretary. As to the European Commission's position, Mr Dunkel said he had not seen any reduction of Brussels' commitment.

He said: "We are not in a period of show, but in a period of effective negotiation." The final push for an accord would be "rough", he conceded, but the "scene is set to conclude". Mr Dunkel accepts that the political understanding might not be achieved this year. He sees the "real deadline" as March 1, when the Congressional fast track negotiating authorisation expires. Senator Bentsen is understood to have told European leaders that Congress is unlikely to extend the mandate.

Since the informal talks restarted, Mr Dunkel said negotiators had achieved the first movement in areas such as market access and freer trade in services.

Mr Dunkel said "real world people" — businessmen and farmers — were telling him they needed to know the parameters of world trade. That was the signal that the world economy needed from the Uruguay Round.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2970



ACROSS

- 1 Vigorous Scottish dance (6,5)
- 8 Pungent bulb (5)
- 9 Saimurai code (7)
- 10 Pigeon noise (3)
- 11 Pensioner (5)
- 12 Tight embrace (4,3)
- 13 Persistently trouble (6)
- 16 Old Roman magistrate (6)
- 20 Rational (7)
- 23 Tight hair curls (5)
- 24 Welcome (3)
- 25 Greatly distress (7)
- 26 Stocking material (5)
- 27 Insubordinately (13)

DOWN

- 1 Dutch ferry port (4,2,7)
- 2 Dutch currency (7)
- 3 Spear cavalarymen (7)
- 4 Powerful men (6)
- 5 Anatomical depression (5)
- 6 Eire citizens (5)
- 7 On Her Majesty's Secret Service James Bond (6,7)
- 13 Raced (3)
- 15 Cassius Clay (3)
- 17 Law violation (7)
- 18 Small frying pan (7)
- 19 Censured (6)
- 21 Presents (5)
- 22 Ascent (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2969

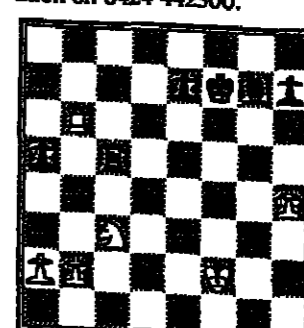
ACROSS: 1 High kick 5 Scut 9 Perfume 10 Annex 11 Jerk 12 Sublime 14 Hockey 16 Turret 19 Tambour 21 Kiss 24 Aroma 25 Gymnast 26 Dote 27 Jetison

DOWN: 1 Hope 2 Gorse 3 Knuckle 4 Crease 6 Conquer 7 Toxicity 8 Lamb 13 Shetland 15 Comfort 17 Unkempt 18 Prague 20 Oral 22 Spats 23 Stun

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is the conclusion of the game Hodgson — Plaskett, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1986/87. In this position, Grandmaster Jim Plaskett immediately spotted a winning chance. Can you see what he played? British Grandmasters Nunn and Speelman will be among the eight players in the top section at this year's Hastings tournament. Further details *Solution on page 33*.

from the British Chess Federation on 0424 442500.



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By PHILIP HOWARD

JUNGLE

- a. A jungle inhabitant
- b. A Jungian shrink
- c. A Swiss teenager

MICKERY

- a. Taking the micky
- b. A sort of well
- c. Echoism, mimicry

Answers on page 33

CODDAM

- a. The female end
- b. A gambling game
- c. A nasal expirative

MICKERY

- a. A small Spanish windmill
- b. Necessity, chance
- c. Communal land